



Daily Report

East Asia

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Japan

Auto Industry 'Concerned' Over Possible U.S. Tariff Decision

OW1805084193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0830 GMT
18 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 18 KYODO—The Japanese automobile industry is concerned about whether the U.S. Administration will impose high tariffs on imported multipurpose vehicles (MPV), industry sources said Tuesday. President Bill Clinton, in his election campaign speech last year, pledged to impose high tariff rates on MPVs because they are regarded as commercial vehicles.

The U.S. Court of International Trade last week ruled against imposing high tariff rates on imported MPVs. An official of the Japan Automobile Manufacturers Association, however, said it still is unknown whether the ruling will influence the Clinton administration's thinking on the issue.

The association has waged a campaign against high tariffs by distributing documents opposing such moves to members of the U.S. Congress and other prominent figures.

Under review by the U.S. Government are Japanese-made four-wheel drive off-road vehicles, such as sports utility vehicles and four-door minivans. The U.S. Government now imposes a 2.5 percent tariff on these vehicles but the rate will be raised to 25 percent if they are classified as commercial vehicles.

The industry association said Japan exported about 190,000 MPVs to the United States, accounting for less than 8.0 percent of the U.S. market.

Okinawa Governor Plans Personal Appeal in U.S. on Bases

OW1805082293 Naha RYUKYU SHIMPO in Japanese
17 May 93 Morning Edition p 2

[Text] Okinawa Governor Masahide Ota will leave for the United States on 19 May to make a personal appeal to the U.S. Government concerning issues which involve U.S. military bases on Okinawa. This will be the fourth visit to the United States by an Okinawan governor since the prefecture's reversion to Japan in 1972. The last visit was made in July of 1991.

Governor Ota plans to call on the State Department, the Defense Department and the two houses of Congress in the United States concerning the return of 4,217 hectares of land included in 23 facilities and areas, including Naha port facilities. He will also call for the banning of some U.S. Forces' military exercises, as well as the enforcement of stricter discipline for U.S. military personnel. The contents (a summary) of the "Request Concerning U.S. Military Bases on Okinawa" being carried by Governor Ota is as follows:

I. Prompting Readjustments and Scaling Down U.S. Facilities and Areas

The U.S. military bases on Okinawa are mostly located in the main island's mid-southern region, which is the area where the major part of the Okinawan population and industry exist. The high population density of this area has been a major factor in obstacles to the prefecture's efforts to improve the regional traffic systems and living conditions of the people who live there. In view of these circumstances, we request that prompt action be taken with respect to the facilities and areas listed below. We wish to add that local governments are currently drawing up or have drawn up plans for their use.

(1) Return of Naha Port Facilities (in Naha):

For more than 20 years, the Naha Municipal Government and the Okinawa Prefectural Government have called on both the Japanese and U.S. Governments to return these facilities to Naha. Naha City is now preparing a comprehensive plan to use and develop that area into a new downtown district by, for instance, installing an international cultural exchange zone and a commercial zone.

(2) Return of Futenma Air Station (in Ginowan):

The presence of this station disrupts the normal functions of the city. The level of noise created by aircraft at the time of their take-off far exceeds 80.5 phons, the environmental level considered acceptable. Since Okinawa's reversion to Japan, there have been 49 aircraft accidents. The station itself is dangerous. Even before the station is returned to Okinawa, it is urged that the station stop conducting flight training exercises and performing aircraft engine warming-up operations at night or early in the morning.

(3) Return of Yomitan Auxiliary Airstrip (in Yomitan-son):

There have been a total of 30 incidents of parachutist trainees landing in civilian areas while training at this location. Since 1965, the Yomitan Township has filed a total of 108 requests to the governments of both Japan and the United States and to the headquarters of the U.S. Armed Forces in Japan to return this area to the township. A utilization plan for the area has been finalized as well. The area will be used for farmlands and a public utility area. In addition, a road system will be built there. Even before the area is returned formally, however, it is requested that parachutist training there be stopped.

(4) Return of Okuma Rest Center (in Kunigami-son):

This facility is located on the northern part of Okinawa's main island, and is one of the most scenic areas on the island. Kunigami-son has drawn up a resort development plan, according to which the area will become a central base in the redevelopment of the community.

(5) Return of Part of Camp Hansen (in Kin-cho):

The area of the facility (163 hectares) requested to be returned at this time is essential to the implementation of a sea-side resort development plan aimed at putting life back into that community. The township has a plan ready for use in the area; called the Igei-Shiobara General Resort Development Plan.

(6) Return of Northern Part of Camp Kuwae (in Chatan-cho):

The area requested to be returned is 43 hectares. According to a site utilization plan now being drawn up, a project to redevelop land in Ihei District is being envisioned. The project includes the erection of an administrative center.

(7) Return or Reduction of Flight and Sea Areas:

Okinawa being a far-away island prefecture, the people going into or out of the prefecture are 97-percent dependent on aircraft as a means of transportation. But flight lanes around Okinawa are restricted because of the training of U.S. Forces. This presents problems for normal civilian flights. The flight lanes should be returned to the control of the prefecture, or the controlled areas should be reduced.

In addition, there are large areas on military bases which constrain the use of areas of the sea by the civilian population. U.S. Forces are requested to promptly return those areas of the sea which presently are not being used—particularly the Naha Port facilities and the sea areas around the Awase Communications Station facility.

II. Stopping of U.S. Forces Exercise and Reduction of Aircraft Noise Level**(1) Cessation of Live Ammunition Artillery Firing Exercises Over Prefectural Highway 104:**

The possibility always exists that artillery shells may land on a residential area, therefore this exercise is dangerous. In addition, there are well-known prefectural resort areas near the artillery impact area, and the image of Okinawa as a tourist site could be damaged. Repeated exercises have resulted in the loss of green trees in an extensive area and have turned the area barren. Now, when the world is talking about the preservation of the environment, this is a major problem—when speaking in terms of the cause of environmental preservation. Most of all, these exercises are forcing the people of the prefecture to live in fear. It is urged that these exercises be banned immediately.

(2) Reduction of Aircraft Noise Levels Around Kadena Air Base:

In the aerial territory over the air base, air combat training, acrobatic flights, touch-and-go [previous word in English] exercises, and engine warm-up operations are

continually conducted, thus damaging the living circumstances of the people around it considerably. It is urged that stepped-up measures be taken to alleviate the inconveniences from the aircraft noise, for instance, by banning flight training—or engine warm-up operations at least—during the night and in the early hours of the morning.

III. Stepped-up Discipline of Military Personnel

On 11 April, a resident in Kin-cho was murdered by a U.S. soldier. The incident has made residents uneasy. Since Okinawa's reversion to Japan, there have been 11 cases of Japanese civilians being killed by U.S. soldiers. It is requested that stricter guidance and discipline be provided to military personnel so that such an incident does not occur again.

Trade Surplus Rises 44.1 Percent in Apr

OW1805095293 Tokyo KYODO in English 0833 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 18 KYODO—Japan's merchandise trade surplus for April climbed 44.1 percent from a year earlier, continuing its upswing for the 28th straight month, the government said Tuesday. The Finance Ministry said the April surplus totaled a customs-cleared 10.25 billion dollars, with exports rising 12.8 percent to 30.68 billion dollars and imports gaining 1.7 percent to 20.43 billion dollars.

Many economists said that the politically sensitive data are likely to continue rising until the July 7-9 summit of the Group of Seven (G-7) industrialized nations in Tokyo, leading to stronger pressure on Japan from its trading partners.

The latest figures follow a record high trade surplus of 111.34 billion dollars announced last month for fiscal 1992, which ended March 31. The April surplus was the largest reading for the month, and the (second) highest for a single month.

A ministry official said there were no major changes from the past few months with exports rising in value, primarily to the United States and other Asian nations, and the yen's appreciation undermining import prices.

The dollar was calculated at 114.91 yen for exports, down from 133.34 yen a year earlier, and at 115.05 yen for imports, down from 133.37 yen.

"There are no factors to comment on the outlook," the official said, citing uncertainty over exchange rates, oil prices and economic prospects both at home and abroad.

Exports rose in value primarily for motors, semiconductor and other electronics, and automobiles.

But shipments of automobiles, Japan's major export item, fell 1.0 percent in terms of volume, and moreover, major rises were seen for those to Asia's newly industrializing economies, which fetched a 95.2 percent rise in

value and 62.3 percent in volume. Auto exports to the U.S. were up 4.5 percent in value and 4.8 percent in volume, and fell 20.4 percent in value and 26.1 percent in volume to the EC.

Major gainers in imports were lumber, crude oil, and aircraft, while declines were notable for oil products and automobiles.

On a country basis, trade surplus with the U.S. rose 22.6 percent to 4,027 million dollars, the 13th straight rise, with exports rising 13.9 percent to more than offset import gains of 7.2 percent.

The trade surplus with the EC fell 6.4 percent to 2,621 million dollars, with exports falling 6.9 percent and imports down 7.3 percent.

With other Asian countries, Japan's trade surplus surged 78.2 percent to 4,712 million dollars as exports rose 24 percent while imports edged 2.3 percent higher.

Jesper Koll, chief economist at S.G. Warburg Securities (Japan) Inc., said, "the trade surplus will continue expanding for the six months ahead with a J-curve effect"—stemming from the yen's appreciation—pushing up the total in terms of dollars. Also contributing will be increased exports to other Asian nations, primarily of steel products to China, he said.

Agreeing that growth will continue, many other economists also pointed to the still-weak domestic demand and corporate inventory reductions in Japan that are undermining imports. However, citing some prospects for improvement, Koll said "it's regrettable that Japan's trade surplus has become an immediate political issue."

The latest data came as Japan's G-7 trading partners, at a meeting in late April of finance ministers and central bankers, decided on a move away from general toleration of the yen's appreciation and switched their attention to market access and boosting domestic demand.

Foreign pressure on Japan mounted at a meeting of trade ministers of the U.S., the EC and Canada, as well as Japan, last week in Toronto, Canada.

The trade ministers agreed to put together an "ambitious package" on market access before the Tokyo summit in a bid for a breakthrough in the stalled Uruguay Round of multilateral trade talks sponsored by the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

Aside from the short-term political aspects, Koll said that exports to the U.S. and Europe in terms of volume are basically leveling off, and imports should improve with Japanese firms, especially automakers, increasingly shifting their production overseas to weather the yen's appreciation.

The "key factor" behind Japan's continuing trade surplus is the expanding exports of steel products to China, Koll said.

Reportage on Cambodian Situation Continues

Hiyoshi: Review of Law Necessary

OW1705143193 Tokyo NHK General Television
Network in Japanese 1005 GMT 17 May 93

[From "NHK News" program]

[Text] Speaking at a news conference today, Administrative Vice-Minister Hiyoshi of the Defense Agency [DA] indicated his view that allowing members of the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] to guard Japanese civilian personnel, including election monitors, necessitates a review of Japan's Peacekeeping Operations [PKO] Cooperation Law.

In the news conference, Administrative Vice Minister Hiyoshi said that SDF members can protect other Japanese PKO members by using weapons if they happen to be with the SDF troops. However, he said that to enable SDF to play a role in guarding the Japanese PKO members, it is necessary to review the PKO Cooperation Law, since it bans such guard activities.

Ministers Differ Over PKO Law

OW1805111993 Tokyo NHK General Television
Network in Japanese 0300 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] At a news conference held after the cabinet meeting today, Foreign Minister Muto and Home Affairs Minister Murata, speaking in relation to safety measures for Japanese PKO [UN peacekeeping operations] personnel in Cambodia, indicated that there might be a need to revise the present PKO Cooperation Law, which bars participation in the activities of the peacekeeping forces [PKF] in order to enable the Self-Defense Forces [SDF] to protect civilian PKO personnel.

During the news conference after the cabinet meeting, Foreign Minister Muto commented on the fact that the PKO Cooperation Law forbids participation in PKF, and thus, SDF members cannot get directly involved in activities to ensure the safety of election monitors and other Japanese personnel.

[Begin Muto recording] In case of any further unforeseen developments, we will have to make a request to the Diet. Recently, I have come to feel that the ban on PKF participation should be reviewed. [end recording]

Home Affairs Minister Murata also stated that SDF members and election monitors are being protected by French troops in Cambodia. Japan ought to have the capability to protect its own personnel. The fact that there is a ban on PKF participation constitutes a problem. Murata said that while Japan should seek understanding for its domestic laws, it is also time for it to review the Constitution and other related issues. He expressed the view that the need to review the present PKO Cooperation Law, which bans the SDF from participating in PKF activities, has arisen in order to allow SDF troops to protect civilian PKO personnel.

Regarding this, Chief Cabinet Secretary Kono said at the news conference held after the cabinet meeting that at this point, the government is not thinking of revising the existing law to enable Japan to protect its own personnel.

On the need to revise the PKO Cooperation Law, Director General Nakayama of the Defense Agency said that there would not be enough time to cope with what is happening right now, favoring flexible implementation of the present law to ensure the safety of PKO personnel as much as possible.

Justice Minister Gotoda and Minister of International Trade and Industry Mori, on the other hand, said that it is a fact that PKO personnel in Cambodia always have to cope with possible danger, and that one must realize that sometimes, unfortunate incidents are inevitable. In cases where the lives of one's companions are threatened, the use of weapons for legitimate self-defense should not be liable for criminal prosecution.

Meanwhile, at the cabinet meeting this morning, Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Koizumi suggested that with regard to the safety of Japanese PKO personnel working in Cambodia, Japan should not only follow the instructions of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia]. In some cases, it should take action based on its own judgment.

In response to this, Chief Cabinet Secretary Kono stated that the UNTAC has complete jurisdiction over PKO personnel. At this point, Japan is presenting its views to the UNTAC, and requesting that the UNTAC take action itself. The transfer of personnel itself may be dangerous. In reality, certain things are feasible, while others are not. He indicated that it would be difficult for Japan to reassign personnel based on its own judgment.

Kono on Safety of Monitors, SDF

*OW1805123793 Tokyo NHK General Television
Network in Japanese 1009 GMT 18 May 93*

[Interview with Chief Cabinet Secretary Yohei Kono, in the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo, by NHK announcer Yoshiaki Kawabata from the NHK studio in Tokyo via satellite—live]

[Text] [Kawabata] I will now interview Chief Cabinet Secretary Kono in the prime minister's official residence, via satellite. I intend to ask him how the government plans to ensure the safety of the Japanese in Cambodia.

Mr. Kono, a report released by UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali indicates that the current Cambodia situation is different from a situation that the Paris Peace Accord envisioned and it seems that the situation there is getting tense. Does the Japanese Government anticipate that the upcoming general elections in Cambodia will be held as scheduled? I would like to ask about moves by the Pol Pot faction. The faction is

reportedly mounting a military offensive in order to derail the elections. What do you think about this?

[Kono] As for the general elections, UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali indicated in his report that 5 million Cambodians, or more than 90 percent of the Cambodians, have completed registering for voting. I think that this is a big figure. Ninety percent of the Cambodians intend to express their will in the elections—and this is of great significance. The election campaign will continue only for a day or two, since the voting is set to begin on 23 May. I am convinced that the elections will be held without fail. As UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali said, all people around the world share my convictions. As Mr. Butrus-Ghali said, the current Cambodian situation is different from the situation that the Paris Peace Accord envisioned. The disarming of the Pol Pot faction did not go as planned. Nobody at first expected a situation where the faction boycotts the elections. We did not expect that the Cambodian situation would develop exactly the way we hoped. As I have just said, more than 90 percent of all Cambodians have finished registering for voting, and this is an indication that they harbor high expectations concerning the elections. Cambodia needs to draft a new constitution to build itself into an excellent nation. In order to draft the new constitution, it is necessary to hold the upcoming elections to elect the members of a constitutional assembly. Members of the constitutional assembly to be elected in the elections will draft the new constitution. A new administration and a legislature will be established in accordance with the new constitution. I believe that the elections are the first stage to building a new Cambodia.... [pauses] On moves by the Pol Pot faction....

[Kawabata] Yes.

[Kono] As NHK newscasts reported just a while ago, downtown Phnom Penh remains calm for the most part. Looking at Cambodia as a whole, there are certainly violations of the cease-fire agreement, and violations have been reported every day. I deeply regret the violations of the cease-fire agreement. Despite these violations, the whole country is not in a state of combat. As indicated in the UN secretary general's report, the Pol Pot faction is not so powerful that it can disrupt the elections. I think that the Pol Pot faction, though its members are said to number more than 10,000, is not so powerful.

[Kawabata] My next question concerns the safety of those Japanese serving in UN peacekeeping operations [PKO]. I would like to ask you what Self-Defense Forces [SDF] personnel can and cannot do for their own safety. What can they do to protect the Japanese election monitors?

[Kono] About 500 SDF members are now staying in camps in Takeo. Forty-one Japanese election monitors will work in the Takeo Province. As the NHK newscast showed just a while ago, the Japanese election monitors stayed last night and will stay tonight in the camps. I

think that the Japanese election monitors certainly feel safe because they are with 500 other Japanese. I do not know whether the Japanese election monitors will work in polls near the camps or work in polls far away from the camps. I think that if they work in polls far away from the camps, they will have to find lodging facilities. I think that it is possible for SDF personnel to transport Japanese election monitors if they are assigned to polls far away from the camps. In that case, I believe that SDF personnel will take safety measures for the Japanese election monitors.

[Kawabata] Do you mean that the SDF personnel will take safety measures for Japanese election monitors while carrying out their transportation duties?

[Kono] Yes, that is correct. The SDF personnel are not there to protect anybody. They carry light firearms like pistols and rifles to protect themselves. They can carry these light firearms while carrying out their transportation duties. Even if they use their light firearms when they are involved in incidents, their use of these light firearms is construed as an action to protect themselves and anyone else accompanying them. Their use of light firearms in that case can be interpreted as an action of self-defense.

[Kawabata] This question concerns the role of the SDF members in Cambodia. Today, Foreign Minister Muto and Home Affairs Minister Murata discussed the review of the freeze on Japan's participation in the PKF [UN Peacekeeping Forces]. What do you think of their remarks?

[Kono] As you know, the UN Peacekeeping Cooperation Law provides for a freeze on Japan's participation in the PKF. Some people have often talked about removing the freeze. Even if the freeze is removed, SDF personnel are not allowed to protect anybody. What the UN Peacekeeping Cooperation Law provides for is that SDF personnel cannot participate in drawing cease-fire lines, exchanging prisoners of war and collecting or managing weapons surrendered by combatant parties after they are disarmed. I think that even if the freeze is removed, nothing can be done to resolve the problems that we are now worrying about. I think that the two ministers fully understand this point.

[Kawabata] I have just interviewed Chief Cabinet Secretary Kono on safety measures for Japanese peacekeepers in Cambodia.

Election Monitors in Angola Return Home Early

*OW1805082593 Tokyo KYODO in English 0755 GMT
18 May 93*

[Text] Tokyo, May 18 KYODO—Three Japanese election monitors dispatched to Angola last fall were brought home early after conditions in the war-torn African country deteriorated prior to its general elections, government sources said Tuesday. The sources said Japan

refused a request by the United Nations to extend the stay of the Japanese monitors prior to their return.

Tuesday's revelation comes as anxieties grow over 41 Japanese election monitors deployed in Cambodia to assist with the monitoring of the May 23-28 parliamentary elections there. "Compared with Angola, the situation (in Cambodia) is far and away more severe," they said.

The three election monitors in Angola, Japan's first dispatch of personnel to a U.N. peacekeeping effort, left Japan on September 16. They traveled around the country observing polling stations to guard against disruptions and fraud during the parliamentary and presidential polls.

They were brought home October 7 and the government reported to the Diet that there was political confusion but the elections were held in an "extremely tranquil and orderly" fashion. According to the sources, however, antigovernment forces charged election fraud when it became apparent they were going to lose and quickly destabilized the situation.

The Japanese Government, judging that its duty was complete and the revival of the civil war was likely, brought the monitors home, despite a U.N. request that they stay until election operations were completed.

The sources said Tuesday that according to the plan, the monitors had been scheduled to be in Angola until October 10 with the possibility of a short extension. They said the exchange with the U.N. over the sudden withdrawal was "fairly severe."

Angola has again been thrown into a civil war and U.N. peacekeeping forces there, which once numbered 700, have been reduced to 150.

Tokyo Views Bosnian Serbs' Vote Against Peace Plan

*OW1805073193 Tokyo KYODO in English 0716 GMT
18 May 93*

[Text] Tokyo, May 18 KYODO—Japan is disappointed at a Bosnian Serb referendum's overwhelming rejection of an international peace plan to end the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday. Spokesman Sadaaki Numata told a gathering of foreign correspondents, "we are disappointed that this proposal seems to have been rejected."

Preliminary results of a weekend vote on the so-called Vance-Owen peace plan reportedly indicated a vast majority of "no" votes. Belgrade's TANJUG News Agency reported Monday that unofficial estimates showed 90 percent of those who cast ballots voted against the plan.

"We do feel that the Vance-Owen proposal does seem to be the only available option under the circumstances,"

Numata said, adding Japan considers it important to continue appealing to the Serbian parties to accept it.

In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher reportedly reacted to the results by saying the United States will consult with European allies about using force or new diplomatic approaches to try to end the ethnic war between Serbs, Muslims, and Croats.

Muto: Vote 'Unacceptable'

*OW1805131993 Tokyo KYODO in English 1251 GMT
18 May 93*

[Text] Tokyo, May 18 KYODO—Japan considers "unacceptable" the result of a Bosnian Serb referendum at the weekend which rejected an international peace plan to end the war in the former Yugoslavia, Foreign Minister Kabun Muto said Tuesday.

Muto said in a statement that Japan still considers the Vance-Owen peace plan the most viable option available, adding that Tokyo will continue efforts to convince the Serbs to accept it. He called on the leaders of the "new Yugoslavia," consisting of the republics of Serbia and Montenegro, to exert their efforts in tandem.

"The only way for the new Yugoslavia to return to the international fold and have U.N. Security Council sanctions lifted is by heeding the concerns of the international community and working together with it," the foreign minister warned.

Muto said Japan's stance remained "cautious" on the idea of international military intervention or on a lifting of the U.N. ban on arms transfers to the warring parties. He implored them to reach a peace agreement before drastic measures are taken.

The United States and its European allies are reportedly consulting on possible air strikes against Bosnian Serb positions to hasten an end to the ethnic warfare between Serbs, Muslims and Croats in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

France has proposed increasing to 40,000 the 9,000 U.N. peacekeeping force in Bosnia-Herzegovina to protect Sarajevo and six other largely Muslim enclaves.

Muto said Japan is actively considering support for the U.S.-centered air-drop operation over mainly Muslim areas of Bosnia-Herzegovina where food and medicine are in critical short supply.

The foreign minister called it important that the international community move swiftly to recognize the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia to help secure its security amid fears of the warfare spreading.

Japan and a number of other countries have been waiting for the European Community (EC) to take the initiative in recognizing Macedonia. But that process has been bogged down by Greek opposition to the republic's name, which is the same as a historical Greek territory.

Muto said Japan was disappointed to hear of an escalation of fighting between ethnic Croats and Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He stressed that Japan was thus not solely criticizing Serbians.

Firm Reaches Refinery Deal With Uzbekistan

*OW1805113393 Tokyo KYODO in English 1041 GMT
18 May 93*

[Text] Tokyo, May 18 KYODO—Marubeni Corp. has struck a deal with Uzbekistan's state-run oil and gas corporation to build a refinery there, the major Japanese trading house said Tuesday. The agreement between Marubeni and Uzbekneftegaz calls for construction of the 1 billion dollar refinery capable of producing five million tons of petroleum products, Marubeni said.

Chiyoda Corp., a major Japanese engineering company, will be involved in the refinery project, which is designed to help Uzbekistan meet its 15 million ton annual demand for petroleum products, Marubeni said. Uzbekistan, a former Soviet republic with abundant oil resources, has been trying to achieve self-sufficiency in petroleum products but currently produces only 8.5 million tons of petroleum products, Marubeni said.

Marubeni said it plans to finish a feasibility study on the refinery project in August and is looking for financing from the Export-Import Bank of Japan for the project. Part of the construction cost might be financed by proceeds from exports of oil, gas and cotton from Uzbekistan to Japan, it said.

Brazil Supports Bid for Security Council Seat

*OW1405143193 Tokyo KYODO in English 1336 GMT
14 May 93*

[Text] Tokyo, May 14 KYODO—Brazilian Foreign Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso on Friday expressed support for Japan's bid for permanent membership on the U.N. Security Council, Foreign Ministry officials said.

Cardoso, who arrived in Japan on Wednesday for an eight-day visit, told Foreign Minister Kabun Muto that Brazil was "sympathetic" to Japan's quest. Cardoso added that Brazil was also an "interested" party, but did not elaborate.

Both Japan and Brazil are pressing for a recomposition of the 15-seat Security Council, whose five permanent members with veto power are the major victors of World War II—Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States.

The two countries are currently among the council's 10 nonpermanent members, serving two-year terms without veto power over resolutions.

The officials said Muto thanked Cardoso for Brazil's "understanding," though he did not comment on

Japan's stance on the question of permanent membership for Brazil. The expression of support was the clearest to date from Brazil at such a high level, the officials said.

Officials said Cardoso and Muto agreed that the two countries would cooperate closely in U.N. peacekeeping operations in Mozambique, where the figure in charge of operations will be a Brazilian.

Cardoso said communication will be facilitated by the reported inclusion in the Japanese peacekeeping contingent of at least one person who is well-versed in Portuguese—the main language of both Brazil and Mozambique.

The two foreign ministers exchanged condolences for the recent killings in Cambodia of a Japanese civilian policeman and a volunteer, and the past slaying of a Brazilian peacekeeper in Angola, officials said.

Meanwhile, officials said Cardoso called for increased investment and technical transfers from Japan to Brazil. While lauding the fact that Japan accounts for a tenth of all foreign investment in Brazil, which is focused in industry and service sectors, he urged future investment in agricultural and livestock sectors.

Brazil, the world's ninth largest economy, has had difficulty attracting investors due to its recession-hit economy, massive unemployment, monthly inflation of almost 29 percent, and slow progress in paying off its foreign debt of 123 billion dollars, which ranks as the largest in the Third World.

Cardoso will attend meetings in Tokyo from May 17 to 18 of foreign ministers of Japan and Rio Group countries—Argentina, Brazil and Chile. The meetings will include consultations on Japan's assistance for the Latin American countries' democratization and efforts to develop market economies, as well as on Latin American and global issues.

The Rio Group is a political forum of a dozen Central and South American nations that support democratization and development of market economies in the region.

Hata: Miyazawa Should Talk With Opposition

OW1505143993 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1009 GMT 15 May 93

[From "NHK News" program]

[Text] Tsutomu Hata, representative of the Hata faction in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, held a news conference today in Ueda City, Nagano Prefecture. On the issue of reforming the current electoral system, which is the focus of attention in the current political situation, Mr. Hata stressed that Prime Minister Miyazawa should exercise his leadership and hold talks with the opposition

party leaders to create a climate for both ruling and opposition parties to reach a compromise on political reform.

Mr. Hata also said: Prime Minister Miyazawa has promised that he will push for political reform, and I believe that the prime minister has a responsibility to fulfill his promise. I think that it would be good if the prime minister would hold talks with opposition party leaders to seek a compromise on political reform; thus, Mr. Hata stressed that Miyazawa should exercise his leadership and hold talks with opposition leaders to create a climate for both ruling and opposition parties to reach a compromise on political reform.

Speaking at a symposium held before the news conference, Mr. Hata stated that the current electoral system should be reformed before a new party is founded, thus indicating that he would do his utmost to push for political reform for the time being.

Miyazawa Says Economy Ready for 'Gradual Recovery'

OW1805092793 Tokyo KYODO in English 0915 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 18 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Tuesday he believes the Japanese economy has already hit bottom and is ready to start a gradual recovery. But sharp, quick economic recovery is unlikely in the coming months, Miyazawa told plenary sessions of both houses of the Diet.

Answering questions on a Diet speech by Finance Minister Yoshiro Hayashi earlier Tuesday on the supplementary budget for fiscal 1993, Miyazawa also turned down an opposition demand for income tax cuts. He said the government has no plans to raise the general consumption tax, currently at 3 percent, in connection with proposed tax reforms.

North Korea

Envoys in PRC, Russia Comment on UN Resolution

SK1705143493 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 2200 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] DPRK Embassies in China and Russia held news conferences on 13 May denouncing the unreasonable resolution by the UN Security Council. Correspondents from the Chinese and Russian newspapers, news agencies, and broadcasting stations, and correspondents from various countries participated in the news conferences. Speeches were made by our country's ambassadors first.

They said that on 12 May, a spokesman of the DPRK Foreign Ministry issued a statement on the UN Security Council's adopting an unreasonable resolution concerning our country's withdrawal from the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty [NPT]. They said that joining or

withdrawing from an international treaty is an issue related to each country's sovereign right. They emphasized that our withdrawal from the NPT was a self-defensive measure stemming from an abnormal situation because the country's supreme interest was under a grave threat.

They said, moreover, that there is neither legitimate justification nor validity for the United Nations adopting some kind of resolution under the pretext of our withdrawal from the NPT. They revealed that there is no regulation in the UN Charter stipulating that a member country of an international treaty cannot withdraw from a treaty. There is also no regulation for making an issue of a member country's withdrawal from a treaty. They claimed that the UN Security Council's double-standard policy of giving tacit approval for the offender while putting pressure on the victim cannot be justified in any way.

They continued to say that the government of our Republic recognizes the UN Security Council's resolution as internal interference in the DPRK's affairs and a grave infringement on its sovereign right, and thus resolutely denounces it.

They said that negotiations between the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA] and our country is maturing and the possibility for holding DPRK-U.S. negotiations is now visible. They stated that a barrier was created in the negotiations because an unreasonable resolution was adopted at this time. They said that this shows that the United States is clinging to forcible measures, not negotiations, and that the UN Security Council is being used by the United States in its maneuver to smash [apsal] our socialist system.

They said that the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula cannot be resolved through methods of forced measures or pressure. They pointed out that the UN Security Council, following the United States' lead, and some member countries should not miscalculate our position and efforts to resolve the issue by way of negotiations as weakness.

They emphasized that if the UN Security Council forcibly carries out unreasonable oppressive maneuvers such as some kind of sanctions based on this resolution, it will be inevitable for us to view this as some kind of declaration of war against us.

They said that the culprit that developed the nuclear issue on the Korean peninsula is the United States, and the country that initiated the adoption of the resolution is also the United States. They warned that therefore, the United States will have to be wholly responsible for all consequences arising therefrom.

In conclusion, they emphasized that the United States should realize that they are responsible for this problem and respond to negotiations with a sincere attitude. They then answered questions by correspondents.

Reports of Riots on Chinese Border Said 'False'

*SK1805105593 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1038
GMT 18 May 93*

[“False Report Modelled After ‘Fifth and Sixth Republics’ Fashion”—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 18 (KCNA)—The South Korean “Security Planning Board” (SPB) spread another false report in broad daylight.

The report said that “a big riot against the system” broke out in Sinuiju and other areas along the river Amnok late last month, some people being “arrested” and some others “escaping into mountains”.

It is the height of folly that the inventors of the false report, in an effort to attach authenticity to their lie, said a “democratic league” allegedly operating in Tokyo obtained the “information” from an “underground organization in Yongbyon”.

Scandalous is the claim that the “information” came from a bogus “underground organization” which does not exist in the world at all.

Moreover, in this [word indisitnct] they recalled the “shooting case” on the Korean-Chinese border which the Chinese side, too, dismissed as a false report, thus giving the lie to their story of their own accord.

It appears that these South Korean tricksters had not expected that they would contradict themselves in inventing a monstrous lie.

Such an incident is unimaginable in the northern half of Korea where the leader, the party and the masses are united in one mind and the people regard socialism as their life and soul, as what keeps them alive.

Whatever false report the South Korean two-bit shysters may spread, the Korean-style socialism cannot be impaired.

It has been a habitual method of the successive South Korean fascist rulers to divert people's attention elsewhere through a “shocking” false report against the DPRK and extricate themselves out of the quagmire in the meantime.

For instance, they had repeatedly channeled false reports about a “large-scale demonstration” in Sinuiju and the like when the ambition for “reunification through absorption” which their “sixth republic” had conceived following the frustration of socialism in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe since the summer of 1991 burst like soap bubbles and the people's resistance was gaining momentum instead against the “security-oriented rule” and the internal unrest grew over the question of the next “supreme power” in South Korea.

People still vividly remember this.

What matters is that the tricky anti-communist method which was employed and became a laughing stock in the days of the "fifth and sixth republics" has been taken over under the present "regime" which styles itself "civilian government".

This is a far cry to its advertisement of "breakaway" from the "fifth and sixth republics".

It is not hard to see why the South Korean authorities are resorting to the malpractices of their predecessors.

The people's fighting spirit is now rising to a high tide in South Korea. They are demanding a thoroughgoing liquidation of the legacies of the "fifth and sixth republics" in a probe into the truth behind the Kwangju massacre and the punishment of the chief culprits in it.

Moreover, the desire is growing intense among the South Korean people of all strata to achieve reunification through alliance with communism and with the North in response to the "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country", a great charter of national unity and patriotism for reunification.

The South Korean anti-national force, apparently, burst into an anti-communist epileptic fit in a bid to reverse the development of the situation which is tightening the noose around their neck, to cast a chill over the reunification sentiments of the people and tarnish the image of the socialist system of the northern half of the country.

But they are seriously mistaken.

Their false reports will only reveal their poor and wretched lot more glaringly and invite ridicules and condemnations from the world people.

U.S. 'Forward Deployment Strategy' Criticized

*SK1805103993 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1026
GMT 18 May 93*

[**"U.S. 'Strategy of Forward Deployment'"—KCNA headline**]

[Text] Pyongyang, May 18 (KCNA)—NODONG SINMUN in a by-lined article today says although the United States is loudmouthed about "detente" and "peace", it is, in actuality, running amok in war preparations to contain progressive countries by strength. This is well illustrated by their so-called "forward deployment strategy", the article says, and goes on:

This strategy is now a main link in the chain of the United States' post-cold war military strategy.

The United States set out "solution of regional disputes" as the basic task of its military strategy under the obtaining international situation in which the cold war structure has collapsed and confrontational relations between superpowers have come to an end. The part and parcel of it is to contain progressive countries, a chief

obstacle to the realization of its strategic interests, on the pretext of "solution of regional disputes".

What the United States seeks through its "forward deployment strategy" is to deploy its armed forces in strategic vantage points in advance and attain its aim by quickly mobilizing them when a "crisis" is created.

After the Persian Gulf war, it designated the Asia-Pacific region as the main theatre for its "forward deployment strategy" and is intending to put fresh muscles into its policy of showdown of strength. Raising a hue and cry over the "instability" of the situation in the Asia-Pacific region, it is trying to maintain its armed forces in the forward areas of the region on that plea.

The U.S. "forward deployment strategy" is designed to keep its huge armed forces ready for action in the Asia-Pacific region for a long time and resort to military interference in and domination over the countries in this region.

There are more than 560 U.S. military bases and facilities in this region at present.

The situation here is growing all the more strained due to the U.S. "forward deployment strategy".

The United States must pull all its lethal weapons and troops out of South Korea and other areas of the Asia-Pacific region.

North Ready for Contacts With All ROK Parties

*SK1805050893 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0441
GMT 18 May 93*

[Text] Pyongyang, May 18 (KCNA)—A spokesman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland [CPRF] in a statement May 17 declares that the North is ready to have contacts with representatives of all the political parties and organisations and figures of all circles of South Korea, assessing the expression of the will to hold dialogue with the North by the South Korean authorities these days as an affirmative response.

Noting that the "10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation for the reunification of the country" personally worked out by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song has evoked unquestioned approval and support from the Koreans in the North, the South and overseas, the statement says:

Today, due to the aggressive and interventionist moves of the U.S.-led imperialist reactionaries, the danger of a thermonuclear war is growing imminent every minute. Under this grim situation, there is no other way of cutting the Gordian knot but to carry the 10-point programme into practice.

If we achieve the unity of the nation on the basis of the 10-point programme which has opened a bright prospect of national reunification, we will be able to defend the nation's interests and dignity by its own efforts.

It is high time the authorities and political parties, groupings and figures of all circles in the North and the South, freed from all differences and prejudices, sincerely discussed the crucial matter of the nation on the basis of the 10-point programme.

As stated by the respected leader Comrade Kim Il-song in the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation, we are willing to have contacts, bilateral or multilateral, with representatives of South Korean political parties and organisations and figures of all circles to set the stage for such dialogue.

The South Korean authorities have of late expressed their will to hold dialogue with us time and again. We regard this, too, as an affirmative response from the viewpoint of great national unity.

We hope that all the fellow countrymen, as the driving force of the reunification of the country, will make tangible contributions, each suitable to his or her position, in conformity with the idea of the 10-point programme and consider that all, whether the ruling or the opposition party, a political party or an organisation, must be provided with an equal opportunity of dialogue.

We sincerely hope that a nationwide dialogue between the North and the South will be arranged with the 10-point programme of the great unity of the whole nation carried into practice at an early date.

100,000 Workers Attend Kim Il-song Square Meeting

SK1505002393 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1541 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Pyongyang, May 14 (KCNA)—A meeting of more than 100,000 Pyongyang working people took place at Kim Il-song Square this afternoon to thoroughly implement the calls issued by the Central Committee [C.C.] of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] with the approach of the 40th anniversary of the victory in the fatherland liberation war (July 27, 1953), the day of the second liberation in which the Korean people repulsed the imperialist aggression and defended their national dignity and sovereignty.

The C.C., WPK issued the calls, expressing the firm belief that all the party members, working people and People's Army soldiers would smash any challenge and obstruction of the enemies, effect a great revolutionary upsurge in socialist construction and accelerate the independent Reunification of the country.

Slogan boards were seen put up at the meeting place, some of them reading "Let us thoroughly carry out the tasks put forth in the calls of the party Central Committee on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the victory in the war" "Let us greet the 40th anniversary of the victory in the great fatherland liberation war with high political enthusiasm and brilliant achievements in

labour" and "Let all of us turn out to create a 'speed of the general march of socialism of our own style'."

The meeting was attended by Premier Kang Song-san and Vice-President Yi Chong-ok, Politburo members of the C.C., WPK, and other senior party and government officials.

In his report at the meeting Kang Hyon-su, member of the C.C., WPK, chief secretary of the Pyongyang Municipal Party Committee and chairman of the Pyongyang Municipal People's Committee, said the calls are a revolutionary banner encouraging the whole party, the people and the army to a heroic struggle to defend to the last and glorify the revolutionary cause of *chuche* with the might of their singlhearted unity behind the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song and the dear leader Comrade Kim Chong-il.

"The brilliant victory in the fatherland liberation war clearly showed that our people and people's army under the guidance of the great leader and the great party were invincible and that even the people of a small country could defeat any imperialist aggression forces and defend their national dignity and sovereignty, if they fought, closely rallied behind their party and leader," he said, and went on:

"The obtaining situation makes it incumbent upon the whole party, people and Army to maintain the spirit of heroic struggle displayed in days of the war, the elated revolutionary enthusiasm and general mobilization posture displayed in the semi-war period so as to bring about a fresh revolutionary upswing in economic construction and defence building," he said, and stressed:

"All the party members and other working people should defend and carry to accomplishment the socialist cause of *chuche* which was pioneered by the great leader and is being exalted by the dear leader, upholding the calls of the party Central Committee issued on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the victory in the war."

The meeting was addressed by representatives of different strata.

The speakers called for vigorous efforts to create a "speed of the general march of socialism of our own style", saying that for the whole party and all the people to turn out in effecting a new great upsurge in socialist construction is the way of winning victory in the life-and-death struggle between socialism and capitalism and defending firmly the bastion of socialism.

A resolution was adopted at the meeting.

South Korea

Further on Dispute Over DPRK's NPT Withdrawal

Kim Yong-nam: Talks With U.S. 'Imminent'

SK1805020493 Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean 18 May 93 p 1

[AFP/REUTER/YONHAP from Jakarta]

[Text] North Korean Foreign Minister Kim Yong-nam said on 17 May that "U.S.-North Korean negotiations to discuss the nuclear issue are imminent." He added that dialogue with the United States is the only way to find a solution to the North Korean nuclear issue which was caused by North Korea's declaration of its withdrawal from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] and that there can be no other way.

Kim Yong-nam said this during a news conference in Jakarta. He is in Indonesia attending a meeting of the Nonaligned Movement Ministerial Committee. He also said: "If the UN Security Council, instigated by the United States, adopts a resolution to take additional measures, North Korea will consider this to be a declaration of war and resolutely respond to it [sonjonpogoro kanjuhago tanhohidaecho hagetta]."

North, U.S. Agree To Hold Talks

SK1805005893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0044 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] United Nations, May 17 (YONHAP)—Washington and Pyongyang agreed at a working-level contact Monday [17 May] in New York to hold high-level talks as soon as possible.

Diplomatic sources said that Charles Kartman, State Department director for Korean affairs, told North Korean Deputy U.N. Ambassador Kim Chong-su that Washington was ready to accept any date for the high-level talks convenient to Pyongyang.

He also notified Kim that Assistant Secretary of State for Military and Political Affairs Robert Garlucci would represent Washington.

Kim is said to have shown positive signs to Kartman's proposal of early talks and said he would inform the United States of the date on hearing from Pyongyang.

North Korea, which has been calling for Pyongyang-Washington negotiations to settle the controversy over its nuclear program, is likely to set the date for the high-level talks between this weekend and next week in New York as soon as it chooses its representative.

Washington's choice of Garlucci instead of Undersecretary of State Peter Tarnoff was not a move to lower the level of the talks as Garlucci was in charge of nuclear affairs, the sources said.

They could not say whether more such working-level contacts would take place before the high-level meeting.

'Secret' North-PRC Talks Noted

SK1805003093 Seoul YONHAP in English 0019 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Beijing, May 18 (YONHAP)—North Korea, preparing to meet the United States in a high-level official conference soon, held in-depth discussions with China on its nuclear issue last week, a ranking Western diplomat said Monday [17 May].

The diplomat, who is well informed on the affairs of both China and North Korea, said that the secret discussions took place in a VIP room at Beijing airport on May 9-10 between Kim Yong-nam, North Korea's deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Jiang Enzhu, China's vice foreign minister.

Kim had stopped over in Beijing on his way to Jakarta, where he attended the Non-aligned nations conference May 11-13, the diplomat said, requesting anonymity.

The highly reliable diplomat said that the details of their discussions were not immediately known but he understood that China had urged North Korea to retract its decision to withdraw from the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty [NPT] as soon as possible and try to resolve the nuclear issue through negotiations with the United States and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

Jiang emphasized that the atmosphere at the United Nations Security Council was conducive for the adoption of "a stronger" resolution against North Korea unless Pyongyang took action to stay in the NPT before June 12. North Korea's announced decision to leave the NPT takes effect on that day.

Jiang then told Kim that it would be difficult for China to exercise its veto power if the Security Council decided to take further action against North Korea, the diplomat said.

Kim, on his part, repeated the North Korean position that it would be difficult to hold a high-level meeting with the United States if Washington continued to demand North Korea retract its decision to withdraw from the NPT and accept special inspection of its nuclear facilities by the IAEA, he said.

However, Kim stressed there was no change in the North Korean position of wanting to hold high-level talks with the United States, the diplomat said.

Kim asked China for its active cooperation since North Korea was willing to hold high-level talks with the United States anywhere and anytime if a compromise could be worked out with Washington on the preconditions, he said.

Meanwhile, analysts in the Chinese capital said they believed North Korea was leaning toward a possible

solution of its nuclear issue through negotiations. They predicted that there would be a dramatic solution of the problem around June 12.

PRC Said Pressing North To Pursue 'Open-Door Policy'

SK1805013793 Seoul YONHAP in English 0125 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 18 (YONHAP)—China has threatened to stop using the Chongjin and Najin harbors on North Korea's east coast if Pyongyang refuses to open up to the outside world, an informed source at the National Unification Board [NUB] said Tuesday [18 May].

China is endeavoring to alleviate North Korean suspicion that its government will be weakened if it pursues an open-door policy by noting that Beijing has faced no threat to its system in the decade since setting up its first special economic zone, he said.

The source said that a Chinese Embassy official familiar with the North Korean economy and science-technology development had divulged this in a meeting with a South Korean Government official.

The Chinese official was known to have said that Chinese leaders had told Kim Chong-u, North Korea's external economic affairs minister, that they wouldn't use the Najin and Chongjin harbors if Pyongyang refused to pursue an open-door policy.

The Chinese leaders had spelled out the results of operating special economic zones for 10 years to Kim and recommended to him that Pyongyang follow suit, saying that it might not weaken the government, he said.

Kim is a cousin of Kim Chong-il, son and heir-designate of President Kim Il-song, and is viewed as an influential figure in North Korea.

China pays for its use of the harbors for transportation of export or import cargoes of its three northeastern provinces.

South Encouraged by 'Positive' DPRK Signal on Contacts

SK1805064593 Seoul YONHAP in English 0635 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 18 (YONHAP)—The South Korean Government, encouraged by what is viewed as a positive signal from Pyongyang, hopes to resume dialogue with North Korea to improve inter-Korean relations, government sources said Tuesday [18 May].

South Korean Government officials had paid close attention to a statement issued on Monday by North Korea's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Fatherland, the sources said.

"South Korea has repeatedly expressed interest in resuming dialogue with us," the statement said. "(North

Korea) recognizes this as a positive response from a point of view of the solidarity of the Korean people."

As a result, the government would keep its eyes on the outcome of a high-level meeting between North Korea and the United States that is expected over the weekend, the sources said.

The government then will hold a meeting of cabinet ministers concerned with unification to discuss the timing and method of proposing the resumption of talks between the two Koreas, the sources said.

The South Korean Government believes the North Korean nuclear issue is basically a problem between North Korea and the world community. But nevertheless, in the end, it is a question to be settled between the two Koreas, regardless of the outcome of the North Korea-U.S. negotiations.

The government plans to open an appropriate channel for talks with North Korea, depending on how far Pyongyang goes in its discussions with the United States with regard to its decision to leave the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, acceptance of special inspections of its nuclear facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency and mutual simultaneous inspections with the South.

The basic South Korean Government position calls for a high-level inter-Korean conference, headed probably by prime ministers, for overall negotiations on the nuclear issue, if the North Korea-U.S. talks do not have any appreciable result.

If, on the other hand, the North Korean-U.S. meeting makes a degree of progress, the South Korean Government will propose a working-level meeting of the Joint Nuclear Control Commission, the sources said.

The South Korean Government, however, notes that North Korea's Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Fatherland has only said it was ready to make contacts with various political, other organizations and prominent individuals in South Korea. It made no mention of any government-to-government contact, the sources said.

Tumen Talks Delegate Says North Seeks Economic Cooperation

SK1605060193 Seoul YONHAP in English 0511 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 16 (YONHAP)—North Korea introduced new laws and organizations for economic cooperation with South Korea and the West, a Seoul official said upon return from his Pyongyang trip Sunday [16 May]. The Seoul official, who had been to the communist state for the U.N. Development Program (UNDP) Conference on Tumen River Development last week, said he was able to confirm that North Korea installed

South-North economic cooperation and exchange, and legal affairs bureaus under its external economic commission.

North Korean economic officials predicted that the nuclear problem will soon be resolved and were ready to seek economic exchanges and openness with the outside world, he said. South and North Korea, separated since 1945, agreed on extensive economic cooperation but Seoul put the brakes on actual projects until Pyongyang clears suspicions on its secretive nuclear development program.

"The new bureaus were apparently set up to prepare for the inter-Korean economic activities and to study the differences in economic laws and necessary changes in its transition to market economy," said the official. "People at the North Korean external economic commission were very warm to South Korean visitors. They showed extra interest in joint investment in light industry," he said.

Student Groups Plan Rallies on Kwangju Anniversary

SK1505062993 Seoul YONHAP in English 0550 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 15 (YONHAP)—Tension mounted Saturday [15 May] as members of the opposition and student groups dissatisfied with President Kim Yong-sam's statement on the May 18 movement planned rallies to commemorate its 13th anniversary from Saturday through next Friday. At the rallies, the demonstrators plan to press their demands for further investigation of the bloody military suppression of the movement and punishment for those responsible for it.

The National Alliance for Democracy and Unification, an umbrella organization of dissident groups, will hold rallies on Saturday afternoon in Seoul, Pusan, Ulsan and Chonju to urge the government to enact a special law and set up a special committee to find the truth about the military crackdown and to punish the responsible officials. The alliance will also hold large rallies in six cities as it has designated the period "Kwangju Civil Uprising Commemorative Week." Students and others will also visit a grave in Mangwol-tong in Kwangju to pay their respects to those killed in the uprising, in addition to other activities that included slide shows of photographs taken during the demonstration.

President Kim, in his statement Thursday, announced a series of government plans to help heal the wounds and restore honor of Kwangju citizens. Kim also said it was time to leave the job of finding further facts on the incident to history and move on with his reform policy.

'Heavy Guard' Around U.S. Embassy

SK1805031893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0249 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 18 (YONHAP)—Police, acting on information that radical students plan to demonstrate

near the homes of former Presidents Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u on the 13th anniversary of the Kwangju movement, sent reinforcements to Yonhui-tong on Tuesday. They posted 1,000-odd policemen near the homes and put a heavy guard around U.S. facilities such as the embassy. The "People's Committee for Commemorating the Democratic Uprising," which is headed by 20 prominent dissidents like the Rev. Mun Ik-hwan, held a ceremony at the YMCA auditorium in Seoul in the morning and called on President Kim Yong-sam to investigate the harsh suppression of the Kwangju democratization movement in May 1980 at an early date.

Fifty Thousand Gather in Kwangju

SK1805030693 Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English 18 May 93 pp 3, 5

[Text] Kwangju—Thousands of students and dissidents from all over the country converged on this southwestern city on the eve of the May 18 anniversary of a 1980 military crackdown on a civilian pro-democracy uprising.

Student leaders were briskly planning a series of rallies to demand the government punish two former Presidents for their role in the military's bloody crackdown which left at least 200 people dead.

As dusk fell on this city, some 50,000 students and citizens gathered in front of the provincial capital building to attend a rally marking the eve of today's anniversary.

Students and dissidents demanded that the new civilian government of President Kim Young-sam investigate charges that his two predecessors - Chon Tu-hwan and No Tae-u - ordered armed troops in to put down the uprising 13 years ago.

Hanchongnyon, or the National Coalition of Student Councils, launched what the radical students called the "student vanguard to hunt down and execute" the two ex-Presidents.

A civil committee in charge of today's anniversary events declared Kumnam-ro, the 1 km main avenue, free of vehicles in the run-up to the anniversary.

Police beefed up security around the government office buildings and police stations yesterday as scattered protest rallies were expected. But no serious clashes were reported.

In the first major rally to mark the May 18 anniversary, some 3,500 students rallied Sunday [16 May] to demand the government arrest Chon and No, who they argued ordered the troops to fire on the civilian demonstrators in 1980.

In one incident, about 500 radical students armed with iron pipes smashed through police barricades and

stormed through the main gates of the central police station. Police quickly repulsed the students by firing tear gas.

The series of demonstrations planned in this city is expected to add a new twist to President Kim Yong-sam's highly publicized anticorruption drive which has already claimed many followers of Chon and No.

President Kim, who took office in February as the nation's first genuinely civilian head of state in 32 years, moved to heal the scars of Kwangju last Thursday by declaring the site of the popular uprising as "sacred ground."

But Kim declined to investigate the roles the two ex-presidents played in suppressing the popular uprising, saying that "the matter should be left to history."

Both Chon and No have denied direct involvement in the 1980 crackdown. But a retired Army colonel told a Seoul newspaper that the two former presidents visited Kwangju to direct military operations.

Dissidents have said Chon and his followers ordered the military action suppressing the popular uprising against the imposition of martial law.

Chon, then chief of the military security command, seized power in late 1979 in what critics call a coup, which triggered nationwide protests and a massive uprising in Kwangju, long a hotbed of opposition. No, then a field Army general, was instrumental to Chon's rise to power, since he was the one who mobilized troops under his command for Chon. No succeeded Chon as president in 1988.

The Kwangju incident was one of the bloodiest incidents in modern South Korean history. By official count, some 200 people were killed, but dissidents claim the number is much higher.

Unsatisfied with President Kim's measures announced Thursday, dissidents insist that the whole truth about the military crackdown must be clarified.

Prosecution Investigates Representative in Bribery Case

SK1705010493 Seoul YONHAP in English 0012 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 17 (YONHAP)—The prosecution is investigating an allegation that Rep. Pak Chol-on has received at least 500 million won from Chong Tok-chin, the so-called godfather of the slot machine racket, officials said Monday. The Seoul district prosecutor's office has obtained confessions from Chong and his brother that they gave more than 500 million won to Pak, one of the most powerful officials during president No Tae-u's administration, to exert influence on the National Tax Administration when tax officials began to conduct a special probe on them in October 1990, the officials said.

The prosecution has summoned a woman, identified with only her last name, Hong, and age, 42, who has allegedly confessed that she gave the money to Pak, the officials said. Chong Tok-chin's brother, Tok-il, told the prosecutors that he had visited Hong and handed her the money, in cash and checks, in a briefcase. Hong, one of Pak's friends, gave it to the lawmaker from Taegu, the officials added.

The prosecution is now concentrating on tracing the whereabouts of the checks. The Chong brothers have been arrested on charges of tax evasion and bribery while operating a slot machine racket throughout the country. Hong is owner of a cosmetic sales company in Kangnam-ku, southern Seoul, and is closely associated with former and present government leaders and politicians. Pak has denied the confessions. "I was meeting so many people at the time, I don't even recall who she is," Pak said.

Pak, a relative of former President No, was active in the Democratic Liberal Party until leaving the party shortly before the Dec. 18 presidential election last year to join the Unification People's Party. Later, Pak admitted that he came to know Hong through a casual acquaintance and had met her on several occasions, but he denied having received any money or requests from her.

"If I did, there has to be someone who has received a request or pressure from me," Pak said. "If the prosecution wants to summon me, I will comply and take the opportunity to clarify the question as well as to lodge a protest," Pak said.

Prosecution To 'Summon' Figures

SK1705043893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0300 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 17 (YONHAP)—The prosecution has decided to summon Rep. Pak Chol-on and a former official of the Agency for National Security Planning [NSP] for questioning in connection with allegations that they received bribes from Chong Tok-chin, the godfather of the slot-machine racket. The Seoul district prosecutor's office said it had uncovered evidence that Pak and Om Sang-taek, current military manpower administrator, had received 500 million won and 200 million won, respectively, from Chong and his brother at the time the brothers came under a special tax probe in 1990.

The Chongs allegedly offered the money to Pak and Om, who was NSP planning coordinator at that time, to exert their influence over the National Tax Administration, officials said. Moreover, the prosecution has obtained evidence that Chong Tok-chin provided Pak's private political organization, called "Wolgaesu-hoe (Laurel Tree Club)," and a political youth group, called "Hochongnyon" led by Yi Song-wan, with large amounts of funds, the officials said.

The prosecution is expected to summon Pak on May 21 or 22, when the current extraordinary session of the

National Assembly adjourns, and question him on the exact amount of money that he received from Chong before bringing charges against him. The prosecution plans to arrest Om on Tuesday [18 May] on charges of accepting bribes, the officials added.

DLP Figures React 'Stoically'

SK1805043893 Seoul YONHAP in English 0247 GMT
18 May 93

[Text] Seoul, May 18 (YONHAP)—“The fall of a rising sun.”

This self-contradictory phrase was coined and has been in wide use in political circles for the past two days to describe Rep. Pak Chol-on, whose ties with the reputed boss of a “budding Korean Mafia” have begun to unravel.

Pak, who was fancifully dubbed “The Crown Prince of the Sixth Republic” and wielded unrestrained power during the administration of President No Tae-u, was finally grabbed by the long arm of President Kim Yong-sam’s anti-corruption campaign.

The prosecution said it plans to summon Pak for questioning as soon as the National Assembly adjourns the current extraordinary session around Friday [21 May] or Saturday in connection with an allegation that he received 500 million won from Chong Tok-chin, so-called godfather of the slot-machine racket.

When suspicion over his connection with the gangster was suggested, Pak tried to laugh it off.

Then on Tuesday, he insisted that the investigation against him was a plot and a political vendetta against a certain group of people. The presidential office at Chongwadae brushed his charges aside, saying his comment was not worth comment.

Until Monday, Pak had strongly denied his relations with “the godfather.” He also denied knowing a businesswoman, identified as Hong Song-ae, who had allegedly handed the money to Pak for Chong Tok-chin and his brother.

Pak later admitted that he knew Hong but denied having received the money.

On Tuesday morning, Pak said he was prepared to answer all the questions if the prosecution summons him. He has also scheduled a press conference for Tuesday afternoon to “clarify his position.”

Many of his colleagues at the ruling Democratic Liberal Party [DLP] appeared to receive the news of his imminent arrest stoically, saying “the time has arrived for him to pay his dues.”

Pak, one of former President No’s relatives, had exercised enormous power and influence through his wide contacts. He had often been the target of suspicion whenever irregularities involving political fund contributions were uncovered or rumored.

Soon after No’s election in 1987, Pak took over control of the private political organization called “Wolgaesoo-hoe,” or the Laurel Tree Club, which had been instrumental in No’s election. Many observers say he must have needed a lot of money to operate such a growing organization.

Enter Chong Tok-chin, who had allegedly been raking money in through slot-machine and other seedy rackets. The godfather must have taken care of Pak and his club members, some observers say.

After getting the post of first state minister for political affairs, Pak continued to receive the protective attention of No and First Lady Kim Ok-suk as he worked to enlarge the Laurel Tree Club into a big organization with 43 branches across the country.

Pak was also said to have formed loosely knit private groups in the financial and sports worlds in order to check the advance of Kim Yong-sam following the merger of three political parties into the ruling DLP.

As a result, few DLP leaders, who side with Kim Yong-sam, are sympathetic to Pak. One DLP lawmaker said Pak should have known what was coming to him when he left the ruling party to join the United People’s Party last year.

On the whole, however, members of the DLP, especially those in the Democratic Justice Party faction, are tense as the chill winds of Kim’s reform drive appear to hit hard against politicians and government officials of the past administration.

Many of them appeared nervous as the administration did not hesitate to prosecute a member of Kim’s own faction in the party, Om Sam-tak, head of the military manpower administration, who was being questioned in connection with the slot-machine scandal. Om, a key official under No’s government, had virtually defected to Kim’s faction after the presidential election, observers say.

The main opposition Democratic Party [DP] is paying keen interest to the unfolding tale of the elusive Pak, who escaped unscathed each time a scandal over political contributions came to light.

The Democratic Party is expected to take full advantage of the Pak case and press the government for balanced investigation and prosecution of other politicians and officials of law-enforcement agencies who were long suspected of involvement in irregularities.

It also gave almost an audible sigh of relief when one party leader said in-party inquiries showed that no DP members were implicated in the slot-machine scandal.

Many DP officials said they believe the investigation of Rep. Pak Chol-on is "an obvious political vendetta." But if he has really violated the law, he has to be prosecuted like everyone else, they say.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Malaysia

UK Defense Secretary Discusses Arms Sales, Bosnia

*BK1805100093 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia
in English 0600 GMT 18 May 93*

[Text] British Defense Secretary Malcolm Rifkind called on Prime Minister Datuk Sri Dr. Mahathir Mohamed in Kuala Lumpur yesterday. Rifkind and his seven-member delegation, including the head of Defense Export Services, were in Malaysia for a two-day official visit. Rifkind earlier called on Finance Minister Datuk Sri Anwar Ibrahim and Defense Minister Datuk Sri Najib Tun Razak.

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Datuk Sri Najib called for United Nations military action to force the Serbs to accept an international peace plan for Bosnia-Herzegovina. He said (?automatically), the UN should lift the arms embargo to allow the Bosnian Muslims to defend themselves.

The defense minister said the Bosnian situation is of great concern to Malaysia. He said he had conveyed Malaysia's stand to the British defense secretary. Rifkind later told reporters Britain had not excluded the option of military intervention of some form, but it had reservations about taking immediate action. During the hour-long meeting between Rifkind and Datuk Sri Najib, Malaysia's defense equipment purchase from Britain was also discussed.

On Action Against Bosnian Serbs

*BK1805053293 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English
0341 GMT 18 May 93*

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, May 18 (OANA—BERNAMA)—Britain has not ruled out military intervention in Bosnia-Herzegovina, but insists that the international community must also continue to maintain the pressure to force the Bosnian Serbs to come to peace.

British Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind said Monday pressure must be maintained and, if necessary, increased to bring the Bosnian Serbs to their senses.

(Serb leader) Karadzic must answer for his own actions but he must realise that there will be no letting up of the international pressure until he and his colleagues realise that the international community will wish to see progress (in efforts to bring peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina), he told a press conference to mark his two-day official visit here.

Rifkind said the fact that Karadzic could not even rely on Serbia for help showed how isolated they had become.

He said Britain had not excluded the option of military intervention of some form, but Britain would have to talk with the other Western nations on the action to be taken.

I think also that the international community must look at all means of bringing pressure, he said.

He said, however, it was also important to identify ways which could make progress to end the suffering in Bosnia.

The first important objective was to ensure that Belgrade, which had endorsed the peace plan, continued to put the maximum pressure on the Bosnian Serbs to make sure that progress was made.

The question of lifting the arms embargo is a very difficult one because, clearly, if you have a fire you do not want to add petrol to the flames that would risk increasing the conflict and producing far more bloodshed there, he said.

He said that even if it was thought to be desirable to lift the arms embargo it would take several months before any arms could be supplied.

And once the Serbs realise that arms are going to be supplied they will intensify their attacks in order to make the maximum territorial gains before the weapons are available, he said.

Rifkind said one should also remember that for weapons to reach the Bosnian Muslims, they would have to go through territories controlled by the Croats who also controlled the coastline.

As we have seen in recent weeks, much of the fighting also includes fighting between the Croats and the Bosnians in many areas and it would be extraordinary for the United Nations to end up supplying weapons to both the Muslims and Croats who then use them to fight each other. This would be immoral, he said.

Rifkind said British military forces had been used to escort humanitarian convoys, in the imposition of no fly zones over Bosnia and also in support of the blockade against the former Yugoslavia.

Minister Notes Growth in Electronics Production

*BK1405111693 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES
in English 13 May 93 p 14*

[By Zainal Alam]

[Text] The total export value of Malaysia's various electronic products is poised for another double-digit growth this year, Deputy International Trade and Industry Minister Chua Jui Meng said.

Malaysia exerted a total of RM [Malaysian ringgit] 34.60 billion worth of electronic goods last year, a 14 percent increase from the RM30.37 billion recorded in 1991.

"This is an indication of our ability in the production of electronic components consumer electronics and industrial electronics.

"It has also placed Malaysia on the world map as a major supplier of the three different categories of the electronics industry," Chua told reporters after opening an exhibition on office automation organised by Fuji Xerox Asia Pacific Ltd in Kuala Lumpur yesterday.

Of the total export value last year, the share of electronic components had dropped to 43.80 percent (RM15.14 billion), well below the Industrial Master Plan [IMP] 1995 target of 61 percent.

The share of consumer electronics, on the other hand, rose dramatically to 26.55 percent (RM9.21 billion) above the IMP's target of 24 per cent.

The share of industrial electronics also rose to 29.55 percent (RM10.22 billion), surpassing the IMP's target of 15 percent.

"These changes have therefore placed Malaysia's electronics industry on a more balanced and healthier basis," Chua said.

Of the total export value of industrial electronics electronic data processing machines and office equipment and their parts and components contributed a total export value of RM5.97 billion last year.

The sub-sector recorded a total export value of RM3.75 billion in 1991 which corresponds to an improvement in exports of about 59 percent.

Chua said that 1992 was also an excellent year for the electronic data processing and office equipment sub-sectors of the Malaysian economy.

The Government is now actively encouraging the manufacture of more technologically sophisticated office automated equipment for export, namely workstation, facsimile machines and photocopying machines.

Such projects are eligible to be considered for incentives under the Promotion of Investments Acts 1986. The domestic market for these products is also growing.

Efforts to promote the office automation manufacturing activities should be intensified.

For example, the printer manufacturing industry is still not developed in the country, despite the bright prospects in view of the ever increasing use of computers.

Chua said of the six projects that had been approved to undertake the venture, none had taken off.

Singapore

Minister Urges U.S. To Maintain Asian Presence

BK1805075593 Singapore THE STRAITS TIMES
in English 16 May 93 p 1

[By Han Fook Kwang in Shanghai]

[Excerpt] Asia will shift its focus from economics to defence and security if the U.S. withdraws from the region, because old suspicions and animosities will re-surface, Mr. Lee Kuan Yew warned yesterday. Speaking at an international conference, he said that might happen if the U.S., the key player in the region for the next 10 to 20 years, withdrew because it did not want to maintain peace and security just so that East Asia and ASEAN could build up their economies.

"If they pack up, then all the ancient suspicions and animosities between Japan and China, Japan and Korea, Korea and China, and the fears of ASEAN for China and for Japan will shift the focus from the positive which we have achieved to defence and security which is a zero sum game," he said.

There could then be only two outcomes concerning the two major powers in the region, Japan and China: They either merged or there was a takeover of one by the other.

"In other words a colossus so big that the U.S., and for that matter Europe, will not be able to balance the weight," the Senior Minister said at the InterAction Council meeting. Therefore, he argued, the best way forward was for the U.S. to take advantage of the fact that it was the most trusted in the Pacific. "That is an asset not to be thrown away," he said.

Eventually, there would be a triangular relationship between the U.S., China, and Japan. It would not be as stable as the bipolar world but stable enough to see the world in the next phase, which he said should have a stronger UN, with the veto powers of security council members restructured.

Turning to what would happen in 20 to 25 years' time, he said that by then China-Japan ties would be the most important factor for stability and growth in the Asia-Pacific region—not that the U.S. had become unimportant, but because of the huge economies of China and Japan.

Could China's relentless growth be stopped? Mr. Lee thought not, although he said the West could try to slow it down by 20 to 30 years, by withholding capital, technology, and expertise as it had done to Vietnam since its invasion of Cambodia. But he did not think the Japanese, the Koreans, or the Europeans would join in because of the awful problem it might create for them.

"Peace and security will turn on whether China emerges as a xenophobic, chauvinistic force, bitter and hostile to the West because it tried to slow down or abort its development, or educated and involved in the ways of the world, more cosmopolitan, more internationalised and outward looking."

There was hope for the future, he said, noting that the Japanese and Taiwanese had become more cosmopolitan as many had worked and studied in the U.S.

He concluded his 45-minute speech on an upbeat note: "We can really make our own future. I know it is difficult to get Americans and Europeans when their economies are in

recession to think positively, and it is easier for East Asians who are growing at 6, 7, 8 percent per annum. We will slow down, our people are going to enjoy their lives, just as the Europeans do, and the Americans do. We are not going to be implacable, unbeatable workaholics, and we will join you in building a better world."

The wide-ranging discussion among the participants, mainly former heads of government and special guests, focused on the cause of the Russian crisis and what the West could do to help. [passage omitted]

Cambodia

Khmer Rouge Attack UN Peacekeepers; No Injuries

BK1805105893 Hong Kong AFP in English 1028 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 18 (AFP)—Khmer Rouge guerrillas attacked an armed convoy of UN peacekeepers from Indonesia along with a British military observer, but the peacekeepers drove them off and there were no casualties, a UN spokesman said Tuesday.

The attackers used B-40 rocket-propelled grenades and automatic weapons to attack the UN patrol in central Kompong Thom Province Monday [17 May], spokesman Eric Falt said.

No one was injured, Falt added.

Akashi Condemns Violent Preelection Political Attacks

BK1805101093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0854 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 18 (AFP)—UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) chief Yasushi Akashi on Tuesday condemned a surge in violence and political assassinations just five days before elections the United Nations still hopes can be free and fair.

"I unreservedly condemn the attacks that have taken place in Siem Reap and the assassination of a senior FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] official in the same province over the weekend, as well as the killing of BLDP officials in Kandal Province," Akashi said.

FUNCINPEC and the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party (BLDP) are the government's main opposition in the six-day election beginning Sunday, the former being a royalist group founded by Prince Norodom Sihanouk and the latter a right-wing nationalist party loyal to former prime minister Son Sann.

"I therefore issue a solemn warning to all Cambodians who oppose the holding of free and fair elections through violence, intimidation, harassment and manipulation," Akashi said. "UNTAC will deregister any members of

any Cambodian party, however highly placed, if it considers that they are in serious breach of the electoral law."

UNTAC has so far deregistered two government officials and arrested a number of others in connection with intimidation, harassment and assassinations of political opponents.

In Siem Reap over the weekend, the deputy chief of the FUNCINPEC office in Puok District was assassinated by two men who entered his house on Saturday night [15 May]. His wife was also injured in the attack, Falt said.

On Thursday [13 May], a district chief and an activist of the BLDP were shot dead while riding home on the back of a motorbike just outside of Phnom Penh.

Both parties have claimed dozens of members killed in political violence in recent months.

In weekend fighting, Khmer Rouge guerrillas shelled the airport near Angkor Wat and continued their barrage on the District of Angkor Chhum to the northwest, forcing 75 UN peacekeepers there into bunkers.

UNTAC Previews Elections, KR's Attempted Disruptions

BK1505165293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1534 GMT 15 May 93

[By Jim Hatton]

[Text] Jomtien, Thailand (AFP)—The Khmer Rouge [KR] are trying to frighten Cambodians into not voting this month and may even shell or attack some polling places to make their strategy more effective, the top UN general in Cambodia said Saturday.

"This is our grave concern—that people in these (Khmer Rouge) areas will be frightened," Lieutenant General John Sanderson told reporters here.

For his part, Yasushi Akashi, the civilian head of the Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), acknowledged the circumstances of the May 23-28 national elections would be far from perfect, but said they would meet minimum conditions for free and fair voting.

Akashi and Sanderson were in this Thai beach resort some 150 kilometers (90 miles) south of Bangkok to give 945 volunteer pollwatchers from 43 countries a hearty sendoff after their three days of intensive instruction here.

Sanderson said the Marxist Khmer Rouge are strong only in limited, sparsely populated areas, but that they have the ability to shell some polling places.

While it would not be very accurate fire, "They might do this to frighten the people," he said. "There is a possibility that they will use small arms fire in other places."

But Sanderson said widespread rumors that the Khmer Rouge were moving troops into position for major attacks during the elections probably were just intended to scare people.

"We have seen considerable (Khmer Rouge) movement in northern Cambodia," he said. "We also hear lots of rumors, which we analyze.

"Our feeling is that what we have heard over the (Khmer Rouge) radio and the tracts received in the countryside by the civilians are aimed at frightening them.

"We think they will attempt to stop the elections with that in mind, and then they will say that it was a popular rejection," Sanderson said, adding that that would not be true.

Asked how many Cambodians might defy the Khmer Rouge and vote—UNTAC has flown in eight million ballots—Sanderson said that would vary from area to area.

"Whether they will vote will depend on their commitment to the election process and the level of fear (the Khmer Rouge) have been able to generate," he said.

"In some areas it will be difficult for 25-30 percent (of voters) to go to the polls, but I am confident that 70 percent can get there quite easily," the Australian general said.

Sanderson said all precautions would be taken to make voting as safe as possible. Security will be beefed up in areas where the risk of a Khmer Rouge attack is high, and a rapid response force will be ready to handle any trouble in what are thought low-risk areas.

Akashi, meanwhile, said the elections would be held under the best conditions possible.

"Although this will be far from ideal conditions for conducting an election, in light of Cambodia's recent history and as compared to other elections in this part of the world, I think this will be a credible election that meets minimal conditions" for freedom of movement and expression, media access and the right of assembly," he told reporters. [quotation marks as received]

"It is a manifestation of the freedom that exists (in Cambodia), he added. "There will be many difficulties, but the minimum conditions if not the maximum conditions are being met today." [quotation marks as received]

Early results of the voting for a 150-member constituent assembly in Cambodia are not expected until early June, and the final results are not expected before June 10, UNTAC officials said.

The constituent assembly is committed to transform itself into a national assembly after the election, and oversee the drafting of a new constitution for Cambodia.

Officials hope that can be achieved before the end of August, when UNTAC's mandate in Cambodia expires.

UNSC Contemplating Resolution on Khmer Rouge

BK1605015893 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 16 May 93 p 2

[Text] The United Nations Security Council is considering adopting another strong resolution to urge the Khmer Rouge faction to cooperate in the Cambodian general elections later this month, a senior UN official said here yesterday.

Mr Yasushi Akashi, the head of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), made the disclosure at a press conference when commenting on the Khmer Rouge's threats to disrupt polls beginning on May 23.

"The Security Council is pondering the prospect of adopting another very strong resolution in this regard," Mr Akashi said.

He said he was hoping to meet Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan to discuss the matter.

The Khmer Rouge have boycotted the elections and UNTAC military commander, Lt-Gen John Sanderson, described reported troop movements in the North as designed to "deter Cambodians from going to vote."

Both Mr Akashi and Lt-Gen Sanderson flew in to Bangkok from Phnom Penh earlier yesterday to preside over the closing of a three-day orientation course for some 945 international poll watchers from 43 countries.

At the session, Mr Akashi admitted to the International Polling Station Officers (IPSOs) that the neutral political environment envisaged by the October 1991 Paris peace agreements was not in place.

But he expressed confidence that minimum conditions for free and fair elections had been met although acts of political violence and intimidation might continue.

He expressed concern over the possibility that two major parties—the Sihanoukist FUNCINPEC [National United Front for a Neutral, Independent, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] and the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party [BLDP] which is loyal to former prime minister Son Sann—might opt out of the race because of attacks.

The BLDP was holding internal consultations yesterday and was expected to announce their decision today, he told the IPSO session.

At the press conference, Mr Akashi expressed hope that both the BLDP and FUNCINPEC would stay in the election race. He stressed that UNTAC was doing its utmost to create a level-playing field for all participating parties.

A total of 20 political parties have registered to join the May 23-28 elections.

Akashi pointed out that it took France and the United States 200 years to develop democracy and that both are still refining it.

"It is foolhardy to expect democracy in Cambodia after only 18 months that UNTAC has been there," he told the IPSOs. "What we are witnessing is the embryonic stage in the birth of democracy," he added.

Both Mr Akashi and Lt-Gen Sanderson tried to assure the IPSOs that all necessary safety precautions were in place although they may not be fullproof.

Lt-Gen Sanderson pointed out that military components of UNTAC, since the start of the disarmament phase, had been concentrating on polling-related security.

The contribution of helicopter fleets from Australia and Malaysia probably has made UNTAC the strongest air force in the region at present, he noted.

UNTAC has revised polling plans in some northern provinces of Cambodia in view of Khmer Rouge activities, he said. But in the rest of the country—at main population centres with the majority of voters—polling plans remained unchanged, he added.

He said there had been considerable movement of Khmer Rouge forces in the north of the country.

All seemed tailored to deter Khmers from going to vote, he added.

Deputy Premier Criticizes UN Role

PM1705154493 Milan *IL GIORNALE* in Italian 17 May 93 p 9

[Interview with Norodom Chakkrapong, Cambodian Council of Ministers vice chairman, by Marcello Foa; place and date not given]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] [Foa] Will the Khmers Rouges succeed in wrecking the elections?

[Chakkrapong] Terrorist action causes a lot of noise, it creates sensation. But the Khmers will not succeed in wrecking the elections because, in reality, they do not have the means to do so. They are simply guerrilla fighters whose actions are exaggerated by the international press. I do not underestimate the Khmers Rouges' strength; I know them well from having fought against the regime for many years by their side. But that is exactly why I am convinced that they are not strong enough to wreck the elections.

[Foa] Some UN officials maintain that the Cambodian Government, despite official statements, would rather reach elections in a situation of chaos, because in that way it would succeed in intimidating the voters by making them believe that the ballot is not secret. How do you answer these accusations?

[Chakkrapong] I do not know who the UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] officials making these statements are. But I have one or two observations to make: First of all, the UN force in Cambodia (UNTAC) is not neutral. For some time now it has been listening only to the FUNCINPEC [United National Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] opposition party (led by Prince Norodom Rannarith, Sihanouk's other son—*IL GIORNALE* editor's note) and the Khmer Rouge. The government is ignored. Have you heard the United Nations or the great powers in recent months publicly condemning the Khmer Rouge for their terrorist attacks? Has anybody made a move? Nobody. The truth is that we are the only one of the four factions to fully observe the Paris agreement. We have never used the Army, even though we have had every reason to do so. But paradoxically, the international community seems to wish to punish us for our diligence.

[Foa] So you maintain that the United Nations is not acting correctly...

[Chakkrapong] Of course; the Blue Helmets [UN peacekeepers] should be the referees but for the time being they are not only failing to punish fouls against us, they are actually playing for the opposing team.

[Foa] Those are serious accusations; can you give us any examples?

[Chakkrapong] Just one is enough: They accuse us of seeking chaos but they can produce no proof. The Khmer Rouge have never implemented the Paris agreement and have continued to arm. Everybody was aware of this, but nobody condemned them. The Khmer Rouge have taken over whole areas of the country, preventing the arrival of the Blue Helmets, without the United Nations having the courage to protest. Second: The government controls 90 percent of the territory, so if UNTAC can work at all, it is solely thanks to our correct behavior. Thanks to us, UNTAC is making a lot of money (more than \$2 billion). If we decided not to implement the Paris agreement, the Blue Helmets would lose their jobs and go to join the ranks of the unemployed.

[Foa] Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Nam Hong last week stated that the government is ready to take up arms once more against the Khmer Rouge immediately after the elections. Can you confirm that statement?

[Chakkrapong] We are ready to defend the people. And today the people are the victims of the Khmer Rouge attacks. The Paris agreement prevents us from responding to these terrorist acts with force. But we cannot tolerate our people being killed: To protect them is one of our duties.

[Foa] So we must be prepared to see the war in Cambodia flare up again?

[Chakkrapong] Can we say that there is peace in Cambodia today? No; the Khmer Rouge have never stopped

making war. We wish to defend ourselves the way you Italians defended yourselves when the Red Brigades were around.

[Foa] How many Khmer Rouge are there? What is their strength?

[Chakkrapong] I believe that there are just over 10,000 Khmer Rouge today; that is not a large number. Their real strength lies elsewhere: in guerrilla warfare, which gives their image a far greater boost than the actual damage done.

[Foa] Is it possible that the Khmer Rouge will change their strategy after the elections and observe the Paris agreement, however late?

[Chakkrapong] I do not think so. Let us try to put ourselves in their shoes. The Khmer Rouge are aware that, if they accepted the Paris agreement, they would no longer count for anything. They would be committing political suicide: Only a few thousand Cambodians would vote for them. So the only option the Khmer Rouge have left to them is guerrilla warfare, because only through force can they hope to regain power. Let us not harbor any illusions: For as long as people like Pol Pot and the other leaders are alive, the Khmer Rouge will continue to fight and kill.

[Foa] Who will win the coming elections?

[Chakkrapong] All the polls say we will win. The Khmer Rouge themselves have no doubts concerning the success of the ruling Cambodian People's Party: They told my father that. In their estimate we should get 70 percent of the votes.

Government Claims 800 KR 'Agents' in Phnom Penh

BK1805051093 Hong Kong AFP in English 0458 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 18 (AFP)—The Phnom Penh government claimed Tuesday that 800 agents from the Khmer Rouge [KR] and its allies have infiltrated the Cambodian capital in order to create chaos during this weekend's U.N. election.

"Not all of these agents are terrorist troops. Some are committing psychological warfare, such as spreading rumors," said senior government advisor and deputy minister Khieu Kanharit.

Up to 10 people have already been arrested on suspicion of such activities, he said.

"The Khmer Rouge are trying to invite people to demonstrate against the government, to organize some riots inside the city," Khieu Kanharit said.

"If possible it will turn into armed insurrection ... and they will try to assassinate some political leaders."

He said agents have also infiltrated other Cambodian provincial capitals, such as southern Takeo, where the 600-member Japanese engineering battalion is based in an attempt to keep out of harm's way.

The government said some of the agents are members of the opposition FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] faction loyal to Prince Norodom Ranariddh, but could not give a number.

One of the Phnom Penh government's main election platforms has been to link FUNCINPEC with the Khmer Rouge in the minds of voters.

The United Nations, which is running the election, has not commented on the government's claims that FUNCINPEC infiltrators are allied with the Khmer Rouge.

PDK Communique Predicts Low Voter Turnout

BK1805053793 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 17 May 93

["Communique of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK] spokesman on the percentage of people to participate in the elections in various provinces and in Phnom Penh"—read by announcer]

[Text] I. In the past several days, UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] has busily engaged in spreading propaganda on the number of electoral offices, saying sometimes that there were 1,800 offices and at other times that there were only 1,500.

As a matter of fact, this is UNTAC's deceitful propaganda. Throughout most part of the countryside, there are actually no electoral offices. For example, there are no electoral offices in 90 to 95 percent of the countryside in Siem Reap, Kompong Thom, Preah Vihear, and Banteay Meanchey. There are no such offices in 60 percent of the areas in Battambang; 70 percent in Pursat; 60 percent in Kompong Cham; 50 percent in Kompong Chhnang; 50 percent in (Kompong Thmar); 60 percent in Kampot; 20-30 percent in Takeo; 50-60 percent in Stung Treng; 60-70 percent in Kratie; 70-80 percent in Mondolkiri; 70-80 percent in Ratanakiri; 10-20 percent in Svay Rieng; 20-30 percent in Prey Veng; 20-30 percent in Kandal; 30-40 percent in Koh Kong; 70-80 percent in the Kompong Som zone covering Kompong Seila, Sre Ambel, Prey Nop, and Koh Toch; and 10-20 percent in Kompong Som city.

II. There are no such offices in 20-30 percent of Phnom Penh city.

III. Note: The numbers mentioned above attest to the fact that the people are not taking part in the elections. This is because:

A. The Vietnamese aggressor forces, old and new, are everywhere in Cambodia.

B. Fighting is still going on.

C. There are cruel acts, terrorism, and fascism conducted by the Vietnamese aggressors and Vietnamese puppets who have kept pressuring, intimidating, threatening, and massacring the people and members of various parties.

D. In fact, the propaganda campaigns carried out in the past several months by the allies inside and outside UNTAC are contradictory as follows:

1. Akashi, Sanderson, and Austin have all admitted that this election lacks a neutral political atmosphere. This election will not proceed in a free, democratic, and fair manner. But they are arbitrarily trying to hold this election.

2. The other UNTAC members, particularly the majority of the Third World countries, disagree with this election. They have said that this election would be held in an insecure atmosphere; UNTAC has not verified the Vietnamese presence; UNTAC has not given the correct role to the Supreme National Council; the UNTAC chief allowed ethnic Vietnamese to hold Cambodian identity cards; the UNTAC chief adopted a law to give the Vietnamese the right to vote in Cambodia. They said that this UNTAC-organized election lacks a free, democratic, and fair atmosphere; such an UNTAC-organized election is unfair. The people in general will not take part in the election because old and new Vietnamese are everywhere. Vietnamese puppets who are actually Vietnamese aggressors are still holding power. UNTAC has done this in order to legitimize the Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets.

E. Thus, such UNTAC-organized elections are very unfair. It is in order to deceive the others that there is an UNTAC-organized election watched by this or that person. UNTAC is doing this in order to gag the others and then legitimize the Vietnamese puppets and old and new Vietnamese aggressors.

Therefore, this election will not accomplish the goal of the Paris agreement to see that Cambodia enjoys peace, independence, neutrality, national reconciliation, and sovereignty with territorial integrity. On the contrary, UNTAC only wants to hold the election and then renew the war in Cambodia. UNTAC is not here to extinguish the flames of the Vietnamese war of aggression in Cambodia. This clearly attests that UNTAC is the offender. Thus, it deserves heavy punishment before the Cambodian people, Cambodian history, and Cambodian People's Tribunal. UNTAC must be held responsible for all the consequences that arise in Cambodia. It cannot put the blame on the others. As for UNTAC's electoral offices, they all exist only on paper. In fact, there are electoral offices only in villages, communes, and districts and only 10 and not more than 30 percent of the eligible voters have been registered.

[Dated] 17 May

[Signed] The spokesman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea

Council of Ministers Issues Circular on Election

BK1805083793 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon
Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT
17 May 93

["Circular of the Council of Ministers on a number of issues concerning the election," dated 17 May and signed by Council of Ministers Chairman Hun Sen "for the Council of Ministers"—read by announcer]

[Text] During the past over 18 months, that is, since 23 October 1991, the Paris peace plan has encountered some obstacles that have resulted in the failure to implement some points mentioned in the agreement because the Khmer Rouge faction has refused to take part in implementing the accord. Lately, not only has the faction boycotted the elections, but it has also resorted to every means to mar and destroy the elections. However, thanks to the high level of determination of the United Nations and the international community as well as the participation and cooperation of various Cambodian factions and political parties, particularly the cooperation and sincere and patient implementation by the State of Cambodia [SOC]'s side—the host party—together with the extensive support of the people, the peace process has so far achieved many major goals and is moving toward its final stage, that is, the elections to the constituent assembly which will be held from 23 to 28 May.

Electoral campaigns with the participation of 20 registered political parties have been carried out actively since 7 April and will end on 19 May. The SOC's administrative structures at all levels have actively cooperated and continue to cooperate with UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] to create conditions for the opposition parties to carry out their electoral campaigns.

So far, some political parties have been striving to raise the question of the neutral political atmosphere with the aim of gaining political profit. In general, they assessed the situation as not having a sufficiently good political atmosphere to hold free and fair elections as scheduled.

In such a situation, it is the common goal and duty of the SOC to be responsible for the fate of the country and for securing the sympathy of the international community. That is, we are still resolutely determined to closely cooperate with UNTAC so as to push the peace process toward its final goal.

Although the Khmer Rouge are continuing their provocative activities with the aim of destroying the elections and despite the fact that some political parties are attempting to boycott the elections, we still firmly maintain that the upcoming election are the best measure for settling the Cambodian problem and bringing about peace and national reconciliation in Cambodia, this being the fervent aspiration of the Cambodian people and ultimate hope of the international community.

For this reason, for the elections to be held successfully and in a genuinely free and fair manner—an important basis for guaranteeing the validity of the outcome of the upcoming elections—in addition to implementing the previous circulars and directives of the Council of Ministers, the authorities of all sectors and at all levels must pay attention to effectively carrying out a number of tasks as follows:

I. To continue closely cooperating with UNTAC at all times in correctly implementing all points defined in the peace agreement, the electoral law, ethical guidelines, and various electoral regulations. All problems arising from mutual misunderstanding should be jointly settled to avoid creating any complication to the election process.

II. All armed forces are duty-bound to take part in protecting the elections, particularly the electoral stations. On the election days, they must closely cooperate with UNTAC forces to effectively implement the joint command and all plans already agreed upon by our side and UNTAC. They must pay attention to blocking the activities of the Khmer Rouge, such as shelling to harass the electoral stations and staging ambushes on the roads leading to voting stations. It is imperative to block on a timely basis all terrorist, sabotage, and bandit acts causing blasts and fires; to establish movements in populated localities to provide public security and social order; and to create favorable conditions for the people to cast their votes.

III. It is imperative to take measures to block on a timely basis all acts of political violence, threats, intimidation, and the violation of the electoral provisions. They must also strive to ensure an atmosphere favorable to the elections, particularly the important points during the elections, such as assuring that ballots remain secret and that voters have threat-free access to electoral stations. Any political individual or group or any administrative unit clearly found to commit an offence to hamper the elections will face maximum punishment according to the existing law.

VI. It is imperative to continue striving to resolve and to stabilize the situation in all political, military, security, public order, economic, and social aspects. It is especially imperative to pay sincere attention to providing public security and blocking acts of economic sabotage so as to maintain and stabilize the people's livelihood and create conditions conducive to the election process.

V. They must make regular and timely reports to upper echelons for prompt action on all events taking place either normally or abnormally.

[Dated] 17 May

[Signed] Chairman Hun Sen, for the Council of Ministers

Commentary Says Thailand Prefers Business to Peace

BK1505105293 Phnom Penh CAMBODIA TIMES in English 10-16 May 93 p 2

[From the "Comment" column]

[Text] Many Cambodian politicians obviously like the hospitable land north of the border.

The famous, like Prince Norodom Ranariddh, to the notorious like Pol Pot, keep their homes and hearts in Thailand.

Thai hospitality is overwhelming. Pol Pot is provided with everything he needs to live well, including armed bodyguards.

His presence is no secret. Thai newspapers recently reported a gathering of Khmer Rouge top brass at Pol Pot's villa.

After the Khmer Rouge pulled out of Phnom Penh, UNTAC has [had] no formal contact with the guerrilla faction in this country.

Informal contacts are maintained at Sok San, a small enclave on the Thai border in the western region of the country.

Otherwise, Bangkok is the official address of the Khmer Rouge where the United Nations keep the guerrillas posted on events within this country. Obviously, Bangkok is offering sanctuary to Pol Pot and his other red comrades.

Meanwhile, the Thai Cabinet has decided to reopen its borders with Cambodia, closed several months earlier due to a Supreme National Council [SNC]'s ban backed by the United Nations on exports of natural resources.

The reopening will bleed Cambodia and destabilise the region.

The exports formed the lifeline of the Khmer Rouge. Previously, money and supplies moved in to help the radical faction put a spanner [monkey wrench] in the peace process machinery.

Outflow from Cambodia included gems and logs, an arrangement which made the Thais very happy.

And the current excuse to reopen the border enables Thai interests to recover machinery left behind in their illegal logging operations. Obviously, Bangkok wants to profit and bankroll the Khmer Rouge at the same time without being obvious about it.

All this leads to a question of the moral fibre of the leaders in Bangkok.

The world at large had made a bold move to intervene and help bring peace to Cambodia after decades of internal strife, believing peace anywhere contributes to peace everywhere.

The intervention costs not only a huge sum of money, but also endangered the lives of peacekeepers at the hands of the Khmer Rouge. These developments had even made China, once the principal backer of the Khmer Rouge, at least openly deny further support for guerrilla warfare in this country.

The Khmer Rouge had done everything to stop the peace process, except officially withdraw from the SNC.

Thailand's actions seem to support a bandied-about theory that there are factions in the UN in a conspiracy to short-circuit the peace effort.

Is Bangkok part of it?

Political Prisoners Stage Jailbreak; 7 Killed

*BK1805075293 Hong Kong AFP in English 0747 GMT
18 May 93*

[Text] Phnom Penh, May 18 (AFP)—Phnom Penh government police killed seven when they opened fire on a mass prison break that freed the son of a government official held by U.N. peacekeepers for political crimes, a U.N. spokesman said Tuesday.

Several U.N. officials said they believed the government deliberately engineered the jailbreak Sunday afternoon in eastern Prey Veng province in order to free the son of a commune chief and his accomplice.

The two men were arrested by the United Nations in March for allegedly killing a member of the opposition Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party (BLDP) loyal to former Prime Minister Son Sann.

U.N. spokesman Eric Falt said the United Nations had no concrete evidence that the jailbreak was engineered.

The government had asked the United Nations several times to release the prisoners, who were kept under the 24-hour guard of Japanese U.N. civilian police.

A total of 134 prisoners took advantage of the jail break to make their escape.

"The local police could not control the situation and started firing," Falt said.

Seven were killed, several were injured, 57 escaped—including the two under U.N. guard—and 22 were caught, the spokesman said.

"We are investigating into this serious incident," he said.

Chea Sim Inaugurates Angkor Borei Bridge

*BK1505080593 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon
Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT
13 May 93*

[Speech by Chea Sim, chairman of the Cambodian People's Party and the State of Cambodia National

Assembly, at inauguration of the Angkor Borei bridge in Angkor Borei District, Takeo Province, on 12 May—recorded]

[Text] I am most delighted to meet all venerable monks and compatriots in Angkor Borei District of our Takeo Province. First of all, I would like to greet all venerable monks and compatriots with a most heartfelt feeling of affection and nostalgia.

I have made a long boat trip on the new canal from the provincial capital to Angkor Borei District. I am very glad to note that this is a new achievement of what we call the water conservancy policy. As His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk often said before 1970, the economic strategy is based on agriculture. The water conservancy policy is the answer to the drive to promote agriculture and help the people increase production. This canal is very important. It is part of the history of our people in Takeo who have actively participated in digging it from the provincial capital to Angkor Borei District.

On my boat trip along this new canal I have noted that our people are enthusiastically engaged in production, particularly in this dry-season production campaign when they are harvesting crops. Besides, our people are involved in other business as well, such as animal husbandry and especially [words indistinct] from the provincial capital to Angkor Borei District. This is called the effort to raise the living conditions of our people in this region who are also engaged in fishing activities [words indistinct]. I warmly praise one of the leaders of Takeo Province since 1979, namely Mr. Pol Saroeun who [words indistinct] in Takeo since 1979. Mr. Pol Saroeun has also been responsible for the digging of this canal. He is also present here in person. This is a historic achievement.

However, I have heard the propaganda by a certain political party alleging that the digging of this new canal from the Takeo provincial capital to Angkor Borei District was for the purpose of giving away part of our territory to Vietnam. I just cannot understand that allegation.

What is the water conservancy policy? It involves digging canals and ditches in order to irrigate ricefields and enable the people to engage in production. This is called water conservancy policy. This policy is not of recent date. As I said just now, HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk also used to focus attention on water conservancy policy. We need to promote agriculture because more than 80 percent of our population is made up of the peasantry working in fields and orchards. This has resulted in our giving priority to the water conservancy policy as it is the key component in our people's production work. Second to this is the question of making available production means, fertilizer, and insecticides.

I do not know what that political party had in mind when it charged that the digging of this new canal was for the purpose of giving away part of our land to Vietnam. This

canal is inside Takeo Province. It is inside Angkor Borei District. Why then did that party say that the canal's purpose was to portion off our territory and give it to Vietnam? This can be nothing other than a simple case of slander, of distortion of the truth, for the digging of canals is part of the water conservancy policy aimed at helping the people in their production work and facilitating the people's waterway transport by boats and motorboats in Takeo Province.

The digging of this canal and others has helped the people in their travel. Yes, this is the truth. In my trip this morning I noted that the people have widely used the canal to transport their crops and other produce as part of the exchange of goods or, in other words, the traffic of merchandise between the countryside and the provincial capital and between the traders and the consumers. That is the fact.

Why then did that political party make such propaganda? Maybe it has not seen the canal and maybe it has made an ungrounded charge. So, because the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] and State of Cambodia [SOC] have dug this canal to facilitate the people's production and travel needs, they have become the victims of a serious accusation.

Furthermore, I have noted the new outlook of Angkor Borei District. The all-round development brought to this district during the past 14 years would make anyone very proud. Immediately after 1979, in the wake of more than two decades of war and the reign of the genocidal regime, only ashes and rubble were left behind; the whole social structures of the country completely collapsed; and we had to start from zero, from scratch. Can you imagine how heavy was the burden the CPP and SOC had to shoulder at that time? The difficulties the CPP and SOC had to overcome were multiple, countless. Anyway, we have had successes. These successes were possible thanks to the fact that the line followed by the CPP and SOC was correct, that it received the massive support of the people, and that it enjoyed their active and vigorous participation. As a result, we have made many new achievements during the past more than 14 years, particularly in this Angkor Borei District.

It is historically significant that this bridge was built as a gift from the CPP and SOC to the people in response to their transportation needs. In the past, the people had to cross the canal by boat. Now they can walk or ride carts or cars across it. This is a method of travel that conforms with the desire of our people and helps facilitate the transportation of goods, the traffic of merchandise, and dealings between traders and consumers. It also helps improve the living conditions of our people in general.

On this occasion, I have noted that our people have smiling faces full of hope in their future [words indistinct] since 1979 have seen their living conditions greatly improved. If we spend some time looking back to the past, we would see that our people and all venerable monks lived under the genocidal Pol Pot regime which,

in just a little more than three years, managed to deprive all of us of happiness, freedom, religions—Buddhism and others, especially Islam—and the good traditions and mores of our people. Worse was the genocide, the massacre of more than 3 million innocent people, including fetuses, babies, elderly people, Buddhist monks, laymen, and ethnic people. Monasteries were closed. So were the schools. They were used as [words indistinct], prisons, slaughterhouses [words indistinct] whatever they needed at that time. What did they mean when they proclaimed that everything was to serve the interests of the people, to serve the livelihood of the people? On the contrary, they disregarded everything that our people wished to have, particularly their sacred, religious aspirations—especially for Buddhism, which for centuries glowed in the heart of each citizen—and they abolished everything that our people worshipped. Why did they eliminate everything?

Whatever they did, whatever acts they committed against the nation—that is, all these criminal deeds—were completely contrary to whatever they had said, whatever they [words indistinct] when they proclaimed that everything they did was for the people, that they regarded the people as their masters, that their leaders were the most obedient servants of the people. They also proclaimed their slogans about their great and wonderful leap forward and that their plan was to resolutely achieve a yield of three to six metric tons of paddy per hectare. But in realizing those targets, the people had to work beyond their capacity, received virtually nothing in return, and were allowed to subsist on rice gruel only. According to their slogan, eating rice and eating gruel were no different. The people did not leap forward; they walked backward.

That is merely a small recollection of what our people went through during those unprecedentedly bitter years in their history. I want also to ask you this: Our people were able to have a chance of rebirth thanks to whom? At that time, our Cambodian people lived in total despair; they had no destination, no goal, no way to save themselves from the polpotist danger of genocide. They had only their 10 fingers with which to pray in accordance with the traditions of Buddhism, Islam, and other religions, begging the gods, Brahma, Indra, and anyone strong enough to help save their lives.

Venerable ones and compatriots: who responded to the prayers at that time? No one else but the CPP, which is now represented in its logo by the angel. It was this angel that saved you from the polpotist danger of genocide. It all started with the 2 December 1978 founding of the Kampuchean United Front for National Salvation [KUFNS]. Hardly one month and a few days had passed than this was followed by 7 January, an historic date which gave our people a chance at a second life. It was thanks to 7 January that all of you were able to survive until today. So, it was the CPP which made the sacrifice, which led the struggle movement of our people to liberate themselves from this danger of genocide.

Talking of 7 January, we must also talk about [words indistinct]. Since 7 January 1979, has there been a single other political party that has joined the CPP in rebuilding the country? None at all. The CPP is the only party that has lived with the people, that has shared weal and woe with the people, and that has stayed close to the people. It has never abandoned the people. It has always stayed with the people. And in the future it will also stay with them. It will never part from the people. It will live or die with the people. This is the CPP.

Without the genocidal Pol Pot regime there would never have been the dates of 2 December 1978 and 7 January 1979. Without the genocidal Pol Pot regime there would never have been the intervention by the Vietnamese volunteer troops. The intervention by the Vietnamese volunteer troops was made in response to the appeal of the CPP and our Cambodian people. As all venerable monks and compatriots know, after the founding of the 2 December 1978 KUFNS, how many troops did our CPP and KUFNS have? We were small in number compared to the genocidal Pol Pot regime, which had 23 divisions. We could not topple it by ourselves. [words indistinct] five, six, or even seven years later we would not have had the luxury of enjoying freedom as we do today. They were in power for just a little more than three years and more than 3 million of us perished. If they had stayed in power for five years, 5 million of us would have perished. If they had stayed seven years, 7 million of us—that is, all of us—would have perished. Not one of us would have survived. No, not one of us. [chuckles]

Therefore, the KUFNS and the CPP had to topple the genocidal Pol Pot regime immediately. This led to the date of 7 January 1979 in order to quickly come to the rescue of our Cambodian people.

Our people have the bitter remembrance of having seen 3 million of their countrymen massacred. How indignant can they be? Those who have survived are utterly indignant. They deplore the deaths of their husbands, wives, children, parents, and relatives, who were most unjustly killed. And how indignant could they be having seen the genocidal Pol Pot regime march their husbands, wives, children, and parents off to the killing fields? These people were killed for no reason at all. They saw rivers of blood and mountains of skeletons. It incensed them, and their anger has not yet left their hearts.

I have just received a series of wishes expressed by our compatriots. First, they want peace; they want to live in peace. [words indistinct] in war we would suffer losses in property and human lives. War never brings anything good to the people; it begets only destruction. Another of our people's wishes is not to see the genocidal Pol Pot regime return to power. This is most correct. Over the past 14 years, we have been able to prevent the Pol Pot regime from returning to power. This has been made possible thanks to the efforts of our people as a whole, in addition to the efforts of the CPP and the SOC. We have thus been able to block off this genocidal regime up to

the present. The CPP and the SOC are certainly capable of continuing to block it from returning to power. However, this depends on the outcome of the election. [chuckles] If the CPP wins the election, it will be able to prevent the genocidal Pol Pot regime from returning to power again.

It is true that the development of Angkor Borei District—seen in the happy faces and healthy appearances of the people, who are full of hope for the future—is cause for delight and satisfaction. The development of Angkor Borei District is equal to that in other districts of our Takeo Province. The all-round development of Takeo Province, too, represents the development of the rest of Cambodia made over the past 14 years. We can see great changes. Large areas of land have been reclaimed. Intensive culture has been applied along with the improvement made to the new land and the construction of new networks of embankment, resulting in high yields through the use of new techniques. During my boat trip, I have noted [words indistinct] of the water conservancy policy related to the new canal from which the people are pumping water to irrigate their crops. This is a historic achievement for the people of Takeo Province, who have brought about this awe-inspiring success.

I would like to talk about politics now. This concerns the upcoming Constituent Assembly election. We are in the middle of the electoral campaign. Twenty political parties are taking part in this upcoming Constituent Assembly election. Only nine days remain before the end of the campaign and in 10 days we will have to go to the polls to elect the Constituent Assembly.

Speaking of the election, every citizen must exercise his right to choose a political party of his liking. He must give his ballot to any political party that he likes, free from coercion or threats from any political party. He has the freedom to use his right and to choose by himself. It is through this election that we can say that each citizen is going to determine his own destiny. No one else but the people are going to determine their own destiny. No foreigner can determine the destiny of the Cambodian people for them. Only the Cambodian people can determine their own destiny through this election.

Whether this election will assure peace or not depends on the selection of a suitable party: one that is trustworthy, that can guarantee and fully protect the country's achievements, that prevents the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime, and that defends the rights; freedoms; religions, including Buddhism, Islam, and other religions; and our people's good traditions and mores. What political party fits this description?

I remain confident that our Cambodian people, who have been through a hard time together with our CPP during the past 14 years and more are well aware of realities, having experienced good things—progress as well as shortcomings; having shared weal and woe together; understanding each other's mind; daring to speak out, to comment on, and to make criticisms; and

having considered the CPP leaders as their own sons. I am confident that the people will place their hope in our CPP and SOC by marking off our CPP, which is at the top of the list of political parties on the ballot papers.

I would like to tell you that each of the 20 political parties contesting the election wants to win and has come to ask the people to vote for it. This is the equal right enjoyed by the 20 political parties. However, the people, too, have an equal right and freedom [word indistinct] in having a political view. No political party can coerce the people into voting for it. Nonetheless, in Takeo Province a political party known for its alliance with the Khmer Rouge has constantly threatened the people to vote for it. If anyone refuses to vote for it, it says, when it wins the election it will kill him. Yes, that is the truth. This party in its propaganda claims democratic rights and freedoms and says that it is fighting on the basis of rights and freedoms. It supports rights and freedoms in words only, for in practice it threatens and harasses the rights and freedoms of the people. It threatens and bullies the people for expressing their freedom and exercising their right to choose any party they like.

Recently, during the Supreme National Council [SNC] meeting held in Beijing on 6 May under the leadership of HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk, a veteran politician who is chairman of a party allied to the Khmer Rouge and called the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party. Let me identify him by name: He is Son Sann—and I am revealing all of this not in order to hurt or discredit anybody; I only want to speak out the truth about human rights. Son Sann proposed to the SNC meeting that the election be postponed. What is the reason for asking for the postponement of the election? True, the Khmer Rouge have refused to join the election and they are not going to stay inactive. Since the signing of the Paris accords—the Khmer Rouge themselves signed these accords—the Khmer Rouge have never ceased to violate the cease-fire agreement. [words indistinct] the Khmer Rouge have aimed at sabotaging the accords and the election itself. Will the postponement of the election help avert the sabotage of the accords?

So the clergy and compatriots are urged to weigh this issue carefully. The Paris Accords have already specified when the elections will be held and when UNTAC will depart from Cambodia. These dates have already been stipulated in the accords. As for the costs of running the UNTAC operation, they have also been planned according to the schedule or the timeframe of UNTAC's presence in Cambodia. The more than \$2 billion in funding for the UNTAC operation is the largest amount of money ever granted for a UN operation in its history. It can be said that if UNTAC were to extend its presence in Cambodia, this would be incompatible with its schedule. As UNTAC's funding is calculated by taking into consideration the timeframes [words indistinct], will UNTAC have more funds? Yes or no? On 23 August 1993, UNTAC will withdraw from Cambodia, so on 23 May 1993, UNTAC must supervise the legislative elections. The dates are set according to the more than \$2

billion in funding available. If the timeframe was to be extended, meaning if the elections were delayed, UNTAC would have to extend its presence in Cambodia as well. Should the UNTAC presence be extended for another six months, a year, or two years, would UNTAC have enough money to continue its operation? Perhaps not. If not, UNTAC would certainly withdraw. And if UNTAC withdrew without holding the elections, this would become a UN fiasco in Cambodia. Somehow, both HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk and Mr. Akashi have disagreed. Therefore, it is imperative to carry out the elections according to the schedule specified by the accords, meaning the elections must be held on 23 May, no matter what.

Is it not Mr. Son Sann's request that the election be postponed to a later date aimed at sabotaging the elections or accords? Anyway, it is obvious that the two parties [FUNCINPEC and the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party, BLDP] are the Khmer Rouge's allies. It can be said that the two parties are pursuing a policy that aims at leading our Cambodian nation into a new disaster. Moreover, the leader of a famous party continues to use the samdech's name and pictures in its propaganda as a means of persuading the people to vote for his party. As the venerable monks have already become aware, HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk has already left the FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] party. It is true that HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk created the party, but he left the party even before the signing of the Paris Accords. Now he no longer belongs to that party or any other party. He will not run in the legislative elections since he is no longer a member of any political party.

Various political parties will compete in the elections and the people will vote for the party they prefer. However, the famous party has claimed in its propaganda in Takeo and other provinces that voting for the FUNCINPEC party is voting for the samdech [prince]. Is this true? No. Actually, there are two kinds of elections. The first one is the legislative election, in which 20 political parties will take part. After that election, then the constituent assembly will draft a constitution [words indistinct]. Afterward, the constituent assembly will transform itself into a national assembly which will in turn elect a new government. And after a new government is formed, a presidential election will take place.

With regard to the presidential election, our CPP has already offered the position of president to HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk. The CPP will definitely present this function to the samdech. Also, the CPP has no candidate to compete with the samdech in the presidential poll. However, it is possible that a number of veteran politicians who are leaders of some political parties will compete with the samdech. And it is likely that those veteran politicians will fail.

If the samdech runs as a candidate in the presidential election and if the people vote for him, then this is what

is called voting for the samdech. The legislative elections (?have nothing to do with the samdech). In the legislative elections, our people will vote for a specific political party, not the samdech.

The FUNCINPEC party has claimed in its propaganda that a vote for FUNCINPEC is a vote for the samdech. This is not the case. HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk has sent a message from Beijing to inform the clergy and compatriots about the state of his health. In that message, he said that he was still unable to return home and asked his children and the clergy not to look forward to seeing him. When he recovers he will return home right away. This is what his highness said. He also stated that he is a member of no party and that he will not participate in the legislative elections. He is above all. He is the father of national independence and reconciliation and the SNC chairman. He is neutral, supporting no particular party, and treating all the parties, including the FUNCINPEC party, with impartiality. This is what the samdech said. The statement was made in writing and his resignation from the FUNCINPEC party was also contained in a written document.

The clergy and compatriots, including the FUNCINPEC party members, are invited to consider this matter. This is what his highness said. It is improper to involve the samdech's person in the FUNCINPEC party since it is against the samdech's neutral stance. One day, as Prince Ranariddh used the samdech's name as his party's window dressing and as this action is against the samdech's neutral stance, his highness stated that if he allows his name to be used as the FUNCINPEC party's name, it is certain that the people will come to believe that he is dishonest.

That is what his highness said. He cannot allow his name to be used [words indistinct]. FUNCINPEC leader Prince Ranariddh was furious with the CPP, accusing it of pressuring the samdech into keeping his name. Actually, the CPP has no right whatsoever to put pressure on the samdech. It is his highness' own decision because he was of the view that if he gave his name to any political party, this would be showing partiality and it would also violate his neutral stance. His highness also said that he would strive to consolidate his neutral position and make it eternal. But that party always wants to put the samdech on an equal footing with various political parties. By all means, the samdech is above all. He is the father revered by the entire people and various political parties.

Now I would like to explain a bit about the election procedure. In the elections, each voter will be given a ballot. What we need to do is to put a mark in the middle of the applicable square on the ballot. On each ballot there are 20 squares, meaning each party has one square. So don't be confused, if you vote for the CPP, you should put a mark right in the square for the CPP. You can put a cross or a zero in the square, either is acceptable.

At present the clergy and compatriots are worried about the return of the genocidal Pol Pot regime. And as all of us are aware, it is only the CPP that is capable of blocking the genocidal Pol Pot regime. So you are right to vote for the CPP. The party promises to protect you. If you vote for the CPP you can keep your present and future ownership and interests and rights. Your freedom and social gains will be effectively safeguarded as well.

Before concluding, I pray that all sacred things, the triple jewels, gods, and Indra protect your health, rights, freedom, and social gains and help guide [words indistinct]. On behalf of the CPP and the SOC, I would like to extend best wishes to all of you. May you enjoy the five blessings of Lord Buddha, that is longevity, high social standing, happiness, hearty physical strength, and enlightenment without fail. Thank you. [applause]

Ranariddh Asks for Border Openings To Remove Wood

BK1605020493 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 16 May 93 p 2

[Text] FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Peaceful, Unified, and Cooperative Cambodia] leader Prince Narodom Ranariddh has asked the Interior Ministry to temporarily open two border passes in Surin Province to enable processed wood to be taken from Cambodia.

Ministry sources said the prince wants the Thai Government to allow the PSR Company, a logging firm to which FUNCINPEC has granted a concession, to bring in 5,000 square metres of processed wood into Thailand through Chom and Thamor Done passes in Surin opposite Cambodia's Oddar Meanchey province.

Prince Ranariddh said in a letter to the ministry that he prefers the passes to be opened until June 19.

The United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia has agreed to allow this amount of processed wood to enter Thailand.

The ministry agreed to the reopening following the request from the prince and may consult the Foreign Ministry and the National Security Council before the matter is proposed to the Cabinet for a decision, sources said.

The Interior Minister's deputy secretary, Itsara Somchai, said the government should allow the transport of processed wood from Cambodia because the logs were cut before the UN ban on log exports from Cambodia.

Meanwhile, 29 Cambodians who initially refused to go home but later crossed the border with the last convoy on May 7 have chosen to resettle in the Khmer Rouge-run village of Yeah Ath in northwestern Cambodia, relief officials said yesterday.

The Khmer returnees were dropped off at the State of Cambodia-held village of Kuttasat, not far from Yeah Ath on May 13, the officials added.

Intelligence reports said there are about 5,800 Cambodians at Yeah Ath, which is located south of Highway Five in Banteay Meanchey province.

The 29 Khmers, who had initially resisted repatriation citing fears of a repeat of the "killing fields", were among the last 576 to cross the border on a journey organised by the Thai army.

Their last camp in Thailand was Site 2, although they were initially displaced Cambodians from Khao-I-Dang camp.

Heng Samrin Inaugurates School in Phnom Penh

BK1605041493 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] On the morning of 14 May, His Excellency Heng Samrin, honorary chairman of the Cambodian People's Party [CPP] Central Committee and chairman of the State of Cambodia [SOC] Council of State, accompanied by Sim Ka, chairman of the Phnom Penh City people's committee, and a number of party officials, presided over the inauguration of three new school buildings which were recently completed of the Republic of Cuba high school, in (?Niro) commune, Meanchey District, Phnom Penh City.

According to the report by [name indistinct], director of the school, the three new school buildings [words indistinct] gift of the CPP [words indistinct] a total of (?135) million riel. He also said that these new achievements will respond in timely fashion to the urgent needs of our society, namely the future of the country [words indistinct] bright future of our youths who require serious knowledge and education [words indistinct] a new life in society.

These achievements also reflect the correct policy of the CPP and the SOC Government, which at all times live and share weal and woe with the people, create all kinds of favorable conditions, and pay attention to the education of the people's children [words indistinct].

Chairman Heng Samrin conveyed sentiments of fondness and profound consideration to the clergy, teachers, students, and our people and masses attending this solemn occasion. This shows encouragement and unswerving support for the CPP. Heng Samrin highly appreciated the [passage indistinct] in the educational sector of the SOC contributing to [words indistinct] which all of us have made efforts to overcome during the past more than 14 years and genuinely served the needs of our people's children. Heng Samrin further said that [words indistinct] although our nation has not yet yet reached a fair level of education, our rebirth and our efforts to revive religion and to improve the living

standards of our people, starting from bare hands [words indistinct] a pride which we must acknowledge [passage indistinct]. Heng Samrin also recalled the destruction during the three years, eight months, and 20 days caused by the genocidal Pol Pot clique. This was [words indistinct] incident in the 20th century and recorded in the hearts of all Cambodians.

Honorary Chairman of the CPP (?openly criticized) [words indistinct] FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] and the party of Son Sann [words indistinct] game of death and will become criminals [passage indistinct] plunge the people and nation into the ravine of death. On this issue, Heng Samrin stressed that compatriots should clearly understand that a vote for the FUNCINPEC party is not a vote for His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk because the prince has left this party a long time ago. Therefore, voting for FUNCINPEC is voting for the Khmer Rouge and that this would bring back the genocidal Pol Pot regime.

Chairman Heng Samrin appealed to all our compatriots, people, and masses to continue going along with the CPP and the SOC Government in building and developing the country in the future, saying that only by voting for the CPP can we guarantee our current achievements, legitimate rights and freedom, and jobs. Also, only by continuing this path can the recurrence of the genocidal Pol Pot regime be prevented.

This ceremony ended after Heng Samrin cut the ribbon symbolizing the official opening of the three new school buildings.

People Revolt, Seize Weapons in Battambang

BK1605013893 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 15 May 93

[Excerpt] On 11 May at 1200, people, in cooperation with militiamen, in Chamnaom commune in Mongolborei District, Battambang Province, revolted and attacked and destroyed a position of the Vietnamese and puppets in Say Saman.

The report says that the people, in cooperation with militiamen, used modern and traditional weapons to attack and completely seize this position of the Vietnamese enemy and puppets. The people and militiamen seized an 80-mm mortar, a DK-82 gun, a B-40 and a B-41 rocket launchers; seven AK's, a machine gun, and a quantity of other war materiel; 12 puppet soldiers were also arrested.

The people and militiamen warned the 12 puppet soldiers in front of many hundreds of Cambodian people to stop serving Vietnam and its puppets, traitors to the nation, and instead join with the people to fight against the Vietnamese enemy and puppet leaders, traitors to the nation; failing this, they would be tried for criminal

activities like the Vietnamese aggressors and the puppets, traitors to the nation. [passage omitted]

International Phone Lines To Increase to 6,000

BK1505121793 Phnom Penh CAMBODIA TIMES in English 10-16 May 93 p 7

[By Ronald Sha]

[Text] Phnom Penh—The international direct dialing network here is to be increased from 1,000 to 6,000 lines in six months.

An agreement for the additional lines was signed last month after two years of negotiations between the Department of Post and Telecommunications [DTP] and Socitel II.

The US\$1.8 million deal will alleviate the acute shortage of IDD lines in the capital city, which has been hampering business growth.

Under the agreement, Socitel II will provide this city with a new and comprehensive Alcatel switching system enabling the operation of the additional lines.

The agreement also provides for a paging system to be set up within six months.

However, this deal chalks up only a small fraction of what is actually needed.

Down to 1,000 lines now serviceable from 90,000 in the 60's, the amount of applicants for IDD lines have been piling and frustrations flare as the gap between demand and supply widens.

According to Socitel II's project engineer Pok Yuthea, Phnom Penh alone would need approximately 15,000 lines to sufficiently cater for its rapidly growing business community.

However, this acute shortage is not only confined to the capital alone.

An estimated 50 to 600 lines are also needed for each of the country's growing towns like Kompong Som, Battambang, Siem Reap, Kampot, and Kompong Cham.

Relay stations would eventually have to be set up in these provinces because of the current microwave limitations of only 50 kilometres from base.

Although no specific figures are available, cost for that is projected to run into millions of dollars.

The potential for going into a communication system like the VSAT is too costly as it would entail the use of the Indonesian Palapa satellite, though that is seen by most as the only solution to the country's nagging telecommunications problem.

Socitel II, a joint-venture, is the second project undertaken by DTP with the French BTI [expansion unknown] company following its successful US\$500,000 Socitel I project.

The former project which saw the installing of 28 PABX lines in Phnom Penh was completed three years ago.

Thailand

U.S. Assistant Secretary for E. Asia Visits

Meets Premier, Surin on Cambodia

BK1805071793 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 0530 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] The U.S. assistant secretary of state for East Asia and Pacific affairs expressed his admiration for the reestablishment of the democratic administrative system in Thailand following the outbreak of unrest last year and the assumption of Prime Minister Chuan Liphai's leadership.

Speaking to reporters after the U.S. official called on the prime minister at Government House, Deputy Foreign Minister Surin Phitsuwan said the United States is pleased with the Thai Government's continuous endeavors in the suppression of copyright violations and admires Thailand's contribution to the efforts to bring peace to Cambodia and the region.

[Begin recording] [Surin] Several agencies are making preparations to defend our interests, especially along the border. Cooperation with the United Nations might lead to national reconciliation in Cambodia. Thailand is ready to give its full support to the United Nations in this regard.

[Unidentified reporter] [sentence indistinct]

[Surin] The discussion did not extend that far. However, we are ready to provide conveniences in transportation of wounded personnel. Our government has made it clear that we are ready to give our support. At present, they are using U-taphao Airport to ship men and equipment in preparation for the election on 23 May. [end recording]

Editorial Assesses Visit

BK1805023593 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 18 May 93 p 4

[Editorial: "Tough questions for US emissary"]

[Text] The new United States government is finally laying out its foreign policy for Southeast Asia this week. US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Winston Lord is in Bangkok for two days of talks following on from the US-ASEAN weekend meeting in Bandar Seri Begawan where he failed to allay lingering suspicions of the administration of President

Bill Clinton. The US official told Association of South-east Asian Nations diplomats that Washington intended to lump concerns over democracy and human rights with security matters. This message will cause concern among many in the region.

Thailand and its fellow ASEAN members have muted their criticism that Mr Clinton's government has shown little interest in this region. Since taking office four months ago, the president's foreign affairs focus has been mainly on Europe, especially Bosnia and Russia. Washington insiders insist this reflects only that our part of the world has been quiet. Our own diplomats and those from our neighbours disagree. They point to the crisis in Cambodia and the critical Thai-American dispute over intellectual property as prime examples.

More to the point, East Asian leaders have openly expressed concern that the Clinton government will return to the policies of former Democratic Party President Jimmy Carter. Mr Carter's primary measuring stick for foreign governments was human rights, by the US definition. He allowed little room for compromise, or for different standards. There were few complaints when his successors, Ronald Reagan and George Bush, stressed pragmatism over idealism.

At his weekend talks in Brunei, Mr Lord may have reopened this problem. He told his ASEAN counterparts: "We believe security involves more than just arms and alliances. Democracy and human rights are components of a broader definition of security." He has a point. A government which tramples human rights and refuses democratic aspirations is a weak regime. But there are standards of democracy and freedom besides the American one. For one thing, many governments are careful about direct criticism of abuses by their neighbours.

Washington has criticised ASEAN for failure to put heavier pressure on the despotic government in Burma to provide basic rights to its citizens. Mr Lord is expected to stress this point to Thai foreign policy leaders during his meetings today and tomorrow. He should face close questioning on this matter. Thailand can condemn Rangoon for its obvious human rights abuses. But there is little evidence that direct pressure on the Burmese junta will convince them to change their policies.

Even more important to regional security is the question of China. Mr Lord, a former ambassador to Beijing, has stressed that he intends to push China harder towards democratic reform. The United States and ASEAN agree that China is a vital ingredient in the security of South-east Asia, but may soon disagree on how to treat that viewpoint. There is fear in some Thai circles that US trade and diplomatic pressure and restrictions on China will be unhelpful to security. In fact, many in our country argue that if the United States punishes China for human rights abuses, Beijing will become even less cooperative in assuring regional peace and stability.

Mr Lord's visit affords the first occasion for our foreign policy makers to learn directly where Mr Clinton intends to take East Asian conduct. Our officials should take this opportunity to question the US official closely and carefully. Throughout the cold war, our own foreign policy has been closely allied to that of the Americans. We remain closely linked by innumerable threads. Because of this, both Mr Lord and our own foreign ministry officials must be clear on each others' national interests.

In Brunei, Mr Lord renewed Washington's commitment to the region, and insisted that Mr Clinton's focus on domestic economic problems and European crises was not a signal of a diminished attention to Southeast Asia. He noted that ASEAN and the United States trade US \$60 billion worth of goods annually. These are welcome words, and indicate that Washington intends to keep its foreign outlook, and friendship with ASEAN, intact. The coming to office of President Clinton, combined with a still-unclear "new world order," raises difficult questions.

This is why we hope Mr Lord can make the new US policy clear to Thailand. The potential of cooperation among countries of diverse cultures and forms of government is greater today than at any time during the past several generations. The visit of the American official can help affirm that regional security will continue to improve.

Government Wants U.S. To Soften Stand on Trade

BK1805035393 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 May 93 pp B1, B3

[Text] DEPUTY Prime Minister Dr Suphachai Phachaphak said he plans to tell the visiting US Trade Representative's director of Southeast Asia Affairs to maintain a broad perspective when considering Thai-US trade relations rather than focusing on any single topic of dispute.

The Board of Trade [BoT] will also ask Robert F. Godec, who will visit Thailand on May 20 and 21, to convince the United States to soften its stance in the current trade dispute between the two countries, Prayun Taloengsi, Executive Director of the BoT, said in a separate interview.

"The relationship between Thailand and the US is not only based on intellectual property rights and pharmaceutical patent issues," Prayun said. "Both have had a good relationship over the years. They also have to consider that we buy a lot of products from them, for example, military equipment."

Suphachai said the United States should remember that Thai-US economic relations are also guided by a special bilateral arrangement known as the Treaty of Amity and Economic Relations.

"The US should not say that Thailand should conform to them as other countries have already done," Prayun said. "Different countries have different reasons and styles of managing the same issue."

On April 30, US Trade Representative Mickey Kantor returned Thailand to the US priority foreign countries (PFC) list for the third consecutive year, citing as his reason the country's lack of commitment for protecting copyrights and drug patents. Under US law, the PFC listing could mean Thailand will be subject to serious trade sanctions unless it attempts to end the alleged practices before the US imposed deadline of July 31.

"We have shown that we are seriously tackling the intellectual property rights violations," Prayun said. "We have also amended our law to conform with international standards. Therefore, the US should take a softer stance to improve the relationship between the two countries."

Yesterday, Suphachai reiterated the government's promise to extend the back-dated patent protection period for pharmaceutical products, as demanded by the US, on the condition that the extension conform to both international standards and Thai law.

Suphachai told reporters that any amendment to the law must not undermine the well-being of the Thai people.

"One thing we have to carefully consider in this issue is drug prices," he said. "The amendment (to the patent law) must not be made in a way that makes us—the Thai people—suffer."

One of the outstanding issues in the ongoing dispute is Thailand's patent law and its lack of back-dated protection for so-called "pipeline" drugs—those which have already been invented but not yet marketed here. The US is demanding seven years of back-dated protection for "pipeline" drugs, while Thailand has said it is willing to give four years only—a plan that is widely opposed for fear that drug prices will increase sharply.

"If the price of the drugs increases due to the law amendment to expand the protection period Thailand can still use the anti-monopoly law to prevent any insensible pricing," Prayun said.

Suphachai said the government is considering back-dated protection that is in conformity with the standards of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, the US Food and Drug Administration and the Thai Patent Act.

"We will use these standards as a measurement of how much we can comply with the US demands," he said.

Meanwhile, Prayun said it is not up to the private sector to say when Thailand will be de-listed from the US PFC watchlist.

"It's a matter for the government to answer," he said. "What we—the private sector—hope is that the final outcome will not affect the country's further exports to the US market."

Prayun also expressed support for the US demand for better intellectual property rights protection.

Joint Military Exercise With U.S. Continues

BK1405141093 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1200 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Thai and U.S. troops participating in the joint Thai-U.S. military exercise Cobra Gold 93 in the area under the responsibility of the Third Army Region, northern Thailand, are building public facilities such as vocational training buildings for schools and child care centers for several villages. The local economy has been renewed as a result of the spending by U.S. troops. Thai and U.S. mobile medical units also provide medical treatment for villagers in the area. Prior to the arrival of the medical units, the Third Army Region dispatched public relations teams and music bands to inform the people about the operation.

The Thai and U.S. troops are now conducting a field exercise in the areas of Nakhon Ratchasima, Chon Buri, Phitsanulok, Sukhothai, and Tak Provinces. The Thai troops participating in the exercise are under the command of Lieutenant General Suwit Chaiprapha, commander of the Third Army Corps.

Yesterday's drill, closely supervised by the Third Army Corps commander and his party, incorporated a target attack operation with live ammunition, air mobility, emergency defensive tactics, and troop maneuvering for assault operations. The Thai battalion taking part in the drill, which took place in Dan Laihoi District of Sukhothai Province, was under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Thammasak Sukwatthana.

Army Chief Promises UN Forces Border Access From Cambodia

BK1705120993 Bangkok Voice of Free Asia in Thai 1030 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] Army Commander General Wimon Wongwanit spoke with newsmen at the Army Meeting Hall after receiving the adviser to the Women's Union of the Lao National Defense Ministry. He said Thai soldiers will facilitate use of the border crossing points on the Thai-Cambodian border by UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) personnel if the situation in Cambodia becomes violent.

The army commander noted that Thai soldiers had a meeting with UNTAC personnel in Prachin Buri province recently. UNTAC asked to cross into Thailand in case the situation turns violent. The Thai side has no objection, because we are ready to allow such entry. However, the army commander noted that he has not received details of the meeting.

Gen. Wimon said on 20 May he will visit the Burapha Force in Prachin Buri to stress that all units be alert and step up intelligence collection because with good intelligence the units will be able to defend effectively. The units will also be asked to control the problems created by Khmer bandits, whose number has been increasing steadily due to effective economic sanctions, which have caused more people to suffer economic hardships.

Chuan Advocates Increased Asian Economic Cooperation

BK1605023293 Bangkok THE NATION in English 16 May 93 p A3

[Text] Thailand and neighbouring countries must increase their economic cooperation to help reduce dependence on North America and Europe, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said yesterday.

The Asia-Pacific region, including southern China, has emerged as a world economic powerhouse with growth rates expected to remain high in the future, he told a seminar of the Joint Public/Private Sector Consultative Committee in northeastern province of Khon Khaen.

Within the region, Thailand will have to cooperate with Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam and southern China, whose economies have good prospects for strong growth, he said.

At the same time, it is necessary to work closely with Malaysia and Indonesia, Chuan said, adding that due to increased difficulties in developing domestic energy sources, Thailand is also looking to neighbouring countries for additional power supplies.

He urged local provincial leaders to try to understand the benefits of transnational economic cooperation and to support efforts in that direction.

Cooperation would include crossborder trade, investment, technology transfer and government assistance in, for example, the construction of a telecommunications infrastructure so that the national telecom systems are integrated.

Phisit Phakkasem, secretary-general of the National Economic and Social Development Board, said plans for economic cooperation in this area differ from programmes like the Asean Free Trade Area (Afta), the single market in Europe or Nafta in North America.

Thai cooperation with its neighbours is "more natural" because cross-border markets already existed and the government just had to provide the financial infrastructure to help promote cross-border activities.

Development plans for the Northeast should be integrated with the economic planning of the nation's Indochinese neighbours, he said.

Thailand could also express its sincerity in promoting the joint development of Mekong economies by dispatching a more senior official, such as a deputy prime minister, to attend next month's conference on Mekong economies in Manila.

Northeastern provinces have urged the government to place additional emphasis on development of roads, airports and industrial estates, skills training and environmental protection.

Provincial governors have also proposed that the government build an inland container depot and develop the railways in the Northeast to prepare the region as a gateway to Indochina.

Police Team To Visit PRC on Drug Cooperation

BK1605022093 Bangkok THE SUNDAY POST in English 16 May 93 p 2

[Text] Four Thai police officers will leave for China today to boost cooperation in preventing and suppressing the narcotics trade as well as exchange information on illicit drugs.

The team, led by Commissioner of the Narcotics Suppression Bureau Kowit Phakdiphumi will meet Chinese drug suppression officials in Kunming, Yunnan and Sip-song Panna.

Pol Lt-Gen [Police Lieutenant General] Kowit said yesterday that talks will focus on measures to intercept heroin traffic from the Golden Triangle, a notorious source of narcotics production straddling Thailand, Burma and Laos.

The Chinese are worried about drug smuggling into their country from the Golden Triangle before the narcotics are taken to Hong Kong, the United States and Europe, he said.

About 4,200 kilos of heroin were seized in China last year compared with 900 kilos in 1991.

He said that because less heroin has been seized in Thailand so far this year it is possible that drug trafficking from the Golden Triangle has shifted from Thailand to China.

Pol Lt-Gen Kowit said that apart from discussing joint efforts between Thai and Chinese officials to stop drug trafficking, the Thai team will ask China to help crack down on the smuggling to Thailand of some chemical substances used in heroin production.

Other topics will include installation of a hotline specifically for drug suppression, he said.

Paper Views Impact of Thailand-Burma-China Road

BK1805033993 Bangkok THE NATION in English 18 May 93 p B3

[“Comment” by Phana Chanwirot]

[Text] Economics has repeatedly been cited as the main reason for developing a highway from Mae Sai district in Chiang Rai through Keng Tung, the Eastern capital of Burma's Shan State to the city of Jinghong in China's Southern Yunnan province. But there are other equally, if not more important hidden agendas which policy-makers and business people tend to conveniently leave out of discussions about the project. These are the potential political and social impacts of the road.

Both are—especially for those who have visited Keng Tung—without a doubt prerequisites in determining whether the “economic highway” would mean a greater well-being for the local residents.

At this stage, any economic gains from the Shan State highway will only be used for the arms and ammunition build-up of SLORC (State Law and Order Restoration Council) in Rangoon.

SLORC's grip on Shan State is tangential to the latter's desperate need for economic development.

Recent reports have created the impression of Keng Tung as a lost utopia that remains at the level of development of the Chiang Mai of 50 or more years ago. That is its charm, but also its myth.

The reality is that the Rangoon government has done nothing to help improve the well-being of the Shan or Thai Khun people (Keng Tung residents) or to prepare them for problems related to the increasingly scarce resources in the area.

Much of the 172-kilometre ride from Mae Sai district in Chiang Rai to Keng Tung is dominated by hills with few trees. The Burmese side of the border, contrary to popular belief, is a lot hotter and more barren than the Thai side. In Keng Tung, visitors will learn that residents have no fuel alternatives to firewood. A few restaurants may have gas stoves, but they are imported from Thailand. Residents also said rice prices have gone up three times in the past four years.

Tourism, meanwhile, in the area does not benefit the local people much economically (although, socially speaking, many are happy to see their Thai counterparts and many of the residents speak Thai). Foreign visitors are required to stay at one of two government-controlled hotels staffed by people from other Burmese states in an effort to keep the local residents out of reach of the foreigners as much as possible.

Physically, Keng Tung's isolation for the past 30 years or so may have helped the city and its people to retain its distinctive identity, architecture and dress. But the Khun

culture is being faced with a steady ethnic cleansing. The cultural dances are no longer refined but primitive. This is not a surprise since the dances are supervised by army officers.

The local Khun dialect is discouraged. Children learn little from formal schooling (SLORC wants people to stay ignorant). Temple schooling has its limitations as well. Two years ago, the Rangoon junta tore Keng Tung's royal palace to the ground to make room for a hotel.

The point here is that the military junta cares little for the well-being of the people in Shan State. They are opening up Keng Tung for money and to help renew its international image. Meanwhile, the needs of the local people are being ignored.

Bangkok policy-makers should ponder the Keng Tung highway proposal cautiously. There is a lesson to be learned from previous policies. The Chatchai Chunhawan's “war zone to peace zone” slogan has an economic overtone which must be reassessed.

Thais have emerged with a bad reputation in Vietnam and Cambodia. Regional economic cooperation remains in vogue. A programme is being planned in the South under the Northern Growth Triangle with Malaysia and Indonesia. There are initiatives backed by the Asian Development Bank for cooperation with Laos and Burma.

Of all of these, the Keng Tung initiative is highly relevant, particularly to the people of Northern Thailand. There is a strong culture interdependence between Keng Tung and Chiang Mai. Local Keng Tung residents welcome Thai people with deep affection. The question is, will we let them down as we did with other neighbouring countries?

Papers View Violent Protest Over Rice Prices

BK1705152593

[Editorial Report] Three Thai dailies—SIAM RAT, SIAM POST, and BAN MUANG—on 17 May carry editorials on low paddy prices and recent protests by farmers over the issue.

SIAM RAT's 500-word editorial on page 4, titled: “Farmers and the Prime Minister,” says that the low paddy price problem is likely to intensify if the government fails to solve the problems of the farmers, who make up the majority of the country's population. The editorial agrees that the low paddy price issue is a serious and longstanding problem. Long-term and solid policies must be followed to deal with it. However, we changed governments frequently in the past and each government had different policies in handling the issue. Most previous governments adopted short-term measures, such as encouraging farmers to reduce second crop plantation, and market intervention, which failed to resolve the farmers' grievances. As a result, the farmers' debt increases day by day. Although the Thai farmers had

suffered from hardships, they did want to resort to protest rallies or violent means. So, the previous governments never considered their problems to be big issues that would affect the government's stability.

The editorial says: "During Prime Minister Chuan Lik-phai's recent visit to Khon Kaen Province to preside over a regional public/private consultative committee meeting, a group of farmers shouted at the prime minister that he should resign because of the government's failure to solve the paddy price problem and to relieve their hardships. This is the first time in Thailand's history that a prime minister has been booed and jeered by farmers. It shows that the farmers have such serious grievances that they dare take such action. Although some people may see this action as excessive or believe some politicians are behind it, we maintain that the farmers' move serves as a warning to the government that the farmers are beginning to fight for their interests. In the future, the country's administrative power will be with the farmers who constitute the majority of the country's population and the country will head toward a real democratic system."

The SIAM POST's 500-word editorial on page 4 is titled: "Farmers are Struggling to Help Themselves". The editorial reviews various recent protests held by farmers over low paddy prices. It says that about 2,000 farmers from 11 central provinces rallied at the Royal Plaza on 13 May to call on the government to help shore up paddy prices. A group of farmer representatives led by three MPs [member of parliament] from the Chat Thai Party met with the prime minister and other officials for three hours to discuss the issue. The government agreed to shore up the paddy price to 2,760 baht per tonne and to sell additional fertilizer to farmers at a price about 25 percent lower than the market price. The farmers ended their protest and returned home although some of them were still dissatisfied with the results.

On the same day, a group of farmers who had rallied between 8 and 9 May in Kamphaeng Phet Province earlier, submitted a letter to the government through the provincial governor calling on the government to shore up paddy prices and look into the case of a farmer who was beaten to death during the Kamphaeng Phet rally. On 14 May, while the prime minister was explaining to a group of 200 farmers in Khon Kaen Province the government's measures to shore up paddy prices, Chat Thai Party MP for Khon Kaen Narongloet Suraphon shouted that the prime minister should resign or dissolve the House of Representatives if he cannot solve the problem.

In conclusion, the editorial says: "The farmers seem have to always struggled alone in fighting for their interests, such as higher paddy prices, lower fertilizer prices, and farm land ownership. What is the use of the House of Representatives?"

BAN MUANG's 500-word editorial on page 5, titled: "Good Image of Soldiers", cites Army Commander in

Chief General Wimon Wongwanit's 13 May remarks concerning the farmers' protest over low paddy prices. General Wimon said soldiers would be the last resort to handle such a protest and help maintain peace and order, as is the case in many other countries. He also said the government had not asked the soldiers to watch over the protest. There will be no problem if such protests are really aimed at the interests of the farmers and no one is manipulating them.

The editorial says the military's image has been affected by the May events. The people were dissatisfied with and distrusted the military because of its role in suppressing the pro-democracy demonstration. The Army has tried to improve its image since the May events, such as through its change in leadership. If the army chief's remarks are now true, what the soldiers have done to try to improve their image will be destroyed immediately. The people and the farmers will realize that the real image of the soldiers is only to serve the politicians and that they still do not understand the real democratic system. The military's duty is to fight enemies and defend national sovereignty, not to suppress the farmers or the people.

The editorial concludes by saying that "national administration and politics must be played out among politicians and the people with wisdom and correctness, not with the use of force."

Government Plans Development for Northeast

*BK1505033293 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
15 May 93 p 15*

[Text] Khon Kaen—The Government plans to develop the Northeast into an attractive place for foreign investment and as an international gateway of trade and investment to Indochina, Prime Minister Chuan Likphai said yesterday.

He said the Government has already set aside 50,114 million baht the largest part of its development budget, for the plan.

He was speaking at the opening ceremony for the two-day meeting of the Joint Public-Private Sector Consultative Committee (JPPCC) to solve regional economic problems.

More than 600 government officials, private investors and businessmen took part.

Mr Chuan said that Khon Khen is the first province in the Northeast that the Government has chosen to host a committee meeting since the previous gathering in Bangkok agreed to hold sessions in four major regions.

He said that the first such meeting has been held in the Northeast because the Government realises the potential of the region to be the gateway to Indochina.

He said that the Government has already mapped out four factors to develop the Northeast into a potential investment centre.

Firstly, the Northeast will be the important gateway for export products into Indochina. This aim was agreed on at several joint committee meetings between the state and private sectors.

Secondly, the Northeast will be the production base for industrial and agriculture products for the local and foreign markets. Investors can establish factories in the region and use its local raw materials, or raw materials from Indochina can be supplied to factories in the Northeast. There will also be transport routes linking the Northeast with other regions especially the east region that already has quality roads.

The Government is improving the regional transport systems to fourlane roads in the four regions. But in the Northeast, the Government will build a link between the East and the Northeast.

Thirdly, there is potential to promote tourism in the Northeast and through Indochina. There are many such trips, such as those to Laos.

Fourthly, the Northeast has a potential labour force. According to a survey, most people in the Northeast are of working age. Its labour force is quick to learn skills and is willing to do every type of job.

Mr Chuan said the Government is confident these points show the Northeast has great potential.

Government To Play 'Broadest Role' in Subregion

*BK1505030093 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
15 May 93 p 15*

[Text] Khon Kaen—Thailand will play the broadest role in developing the new economic sub-region comprising the country's northeastern region Southern China and Indochina, according to the latest development survey.

The survey, conducted jointly by the Asian Development Bank [ADB], the Thai Government and other countries in the Mekong basin, said the sub-region would become a major common market in the near future.

National Economic and Social Development Board (NESDB) Secretary-General Phisit Phakkasem said Thailand's northeastern region would act as a centre and gateway for the sub-region.

In a speech delivered at the Joint Public-Private Sector Consultative Committee meeting chaired by Prime Minister Chuan Likphai in Khon Kaen yesterday, Dr Phisit said according to the survey there were six key opportunities which would lead to the development and prosperity of the sub-region.

First, many of the countries in the sub-region, particularly those in Indochina and China, had rapidly transformed their economies into market economies, which

had created strong potential for consumption and production because the sub-region comprised up to 118 million people (37 million in Southern China or Yunnan, 68 million in Vietnam, 8.5 million in Cambodia and 4.2 million in Laos), not including northeastern Thailand.

Secondly, the vast potential of the Mekong basin, one of the world's largest, would play a major role in the development of agriculture, fisheries, energy and waterways. For example, the basin had the potential to produce as much as 58,000 MW [megawatts] of electricity. At present only 1 percent of this potential has been tapped.

The river is 2,130 km long and passes through China, Laos, Thailand, Vietnam and Cambodia. It is expected to be one of the major variables in helping the development of the sub-region.

Thirdly, there has been increasing cooperation among countries in the sub-region which will eventually lead to the strengthening of its international competitiveness, he said.

The sub-region had the highest growth potential in the world, particularly in Southern China and Thailand where economic growth is more than 12 percent and nearly 10 percent per year respectively. Indochina and Yunnan are known to be very resource-rich areas, while their people are highly disciplined, making it possible for them to compete in the international market.

Fourth, the volume of border trade within the "baht zone" has been expanding at a very fast rate. Actual trade volume among Southern China, Vietnam, Burma and Laos is believed to be much higher than the official figures.

Laos' imports from Thailand now account for more than 47 percent of its total imports, while trade between Southern China and Vietnam two years ago was as much as 5,000 million baht a year.

The Yunnan province has estimated that trade with Indochina has been expanding at more than 30 percent per year.

Last year the governor of Yunnan province visited Thailand and Indochina and expressed readiness to cooperate on bilateral trade and sought negotiations on currency-clearing.

Japanese bankers call the sub-region the "baht zone" as more baht currency is used than any other.

Fifth, investment from Thailand and other countries in Indochina has been increasing markedly and will be a key factor in helping reconstruct the Indochinese economy.

According to an ADB survey, foreign investment in Indochina has been much higher than savings in the region.

From 1988-92, Thailand invested US\$135 million in 91 projects in Laos followed by the US which invested US\$70 million in 14 projects.

In 1990, foreign investment in Vietnam totalled US\$3,816 million.

Sixth, opportunities for energy interdependence among Indochinese countries, Thailand and China would increase.

At present Thailand has to rely on its neighbours for up to 60 percent of its energy supply.

By 2000 the dependency will be as high as 70 percent, Dr Phisit said.

This would provide a golden opportunity for Thailand to cooperate with the Indochinese countries in trying to tap the energy potential of the Mekong River for hydropower.

Thailand and the ADB survey team met in October last year in Manila. Representatives from Indochinese countries, South China and Burma also attended.

The meeting discussed strategies and priorities needed to carry out the development of the sub-region.

Factory Fire To Cause Export Income Loss

BK1505024593 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 15 May 93 p 15

[Text] THAILAND will this year lose about 350 million baht in export income as a result of this week's tragic doll factory fire, Deputy Commerce Minister Phaitun Kaeothong said yesterday.

His assessment was described as too pessimistic by some analysts, however, who said that other companies could partly fill the gap, particularly since the peak demand period is in August and September.

Factory owner Kader Industrial (Thailand) Co was the major doll manufacturer in Thailand, producing 30 million dolls per year (6 percent of the country's doll production), Mr Phaitun said.

If the factory had not burnt down it would have earned about 600-million-baht worth of foreign income this year. Because it would be out of operation for the rest of the year about 350 million baht in export income would be lost, he said.

Kader Industrial (Thailand) Co, Thai Chiu Fu Co and KCP Packaging Co have bought 1,217-million-baht worth of insurance from Safety Insurance Co, of which 510 million baht is for business interruption protection, insurance company sources say.

According to one well-informed source the insurance coverage of 1,217 million baht is divided into 842 million baht for Kader Industrial (Thailand) Co, of which 300 million baht is for business interruption

protection, 338 million baht for Thai Chiu Fu Co, of which 200 million baht is for business interruption, and 37 million baht for KCP Packaging, of which 10 million baht is for business interruption.

The source said if there is no arson involved, Safety Insurance Co and firms which obtained reinsurance from Safety Insurance will compensate for the loss of revenue arising during the closure of the operations. The source said that most manufacturing firms buy business interruption insurance coverage when they buy fire insurance.

Thailand's doll exports last year were worth 8,765 million baht, up 12.4 percent from 1991. This year, the expected export target is 10,500 million baht, an increase of 19.8 percent.

The industry's major export markets are the European Community, the US and Japan. Thai doll products sent to the three markets receive tax privileges under the Generalised System of Preferences (GSP). Mr Phaitun said other Thai doll manufacturers should increase their production capacity so the GSP privileges would not be lost to competitors.

Further on Army Deal To Purchase Helicopters

BK1505020493 Bangkok THE NATION in English 15 May 93 p A1

[Text] THE "dangerous aunt" Army Commander-in-Chief Wimon Wongwanit believes is behind the ballyhoo over the army's plan to buy new helicopters is a "minor wife" of a lieutenant general who served at Government House while Gen Prem Tinsulanon was prime minister, an informed source said yesterday. The same woman had tried to sell helicopters of questionable quality to Wimon, but was rejected, the source said. He did not name the woman.

Wimon has also refused to further identify the woman he described only as a "dangerous aunt" he said had given false information to opposition Chat Thai MP Songtham Panyadi.

Songtham has been criticizing the army over plans to buy 20 new helicopters for Bt3.26 billion without following normal bidding procedures.

The army's early list of helicopters and companies for consideration for the purchase comprised: the Black Hawk (US), Bell 212 (US), Mi 17-V (Russia), Dauphin (France), Bell of Indonesia, Kawasaki of Japan and McDonnell of the United States.

Later the list was shortened to only the Black Hawk, Bell 212 and Mi 17-V.

"The helicopter proposed by the dangerous aunt was knocked out of the first round because it failed to meet the army's chief condition—that the helicopters should already be deployed in the armies of 'reliable' countries," the source said.

The Thai army checked with the country where the helicopters proposed by the "dangerous aunt" were produced, and found that only four were currently in service, according to the source. Songtham early this week denied that he had received any information from a "dangerous aunt".

"I assure you that Gen Wimon is a man of integrity. He may not be involved (in irregularities) but people under him may be. I am afraid it could resemble the Sting Ray (army tank) scandal. I also wonder who the 'dangerous aunt' is, and what she looks like," he said.

"What I fear, however, is that 'dangerous' people in uniform might gain personally at the expense of the country." He added that he had more documents on the case which he intended to make public under the "appropriate circumstances".

"(The case) is opaque," he said. "But if Gen Wimon would give his personal attention to it, it may become transparent.... I am willing to risk losing my seat in Parliament to stand by my belief that this matter is not transparent. If he has evidence to prove otherwise, I am willing to resign from my parliamentary seat. Is he willing and ready to risk losing his position the way I am?" The second set of documents, he said was intended as a "second line of fire".

The army source said the much-criticized move to buy helicopters under a "special deal", meaning bidding was not necessary, was "unavoidable". The source said specifications laid out by the army in its purchase plan seemed to favour the Bell helicopters of the United States.

"Since the army attaches much importance to specifications, calling for bids would lead to many problems."

The source said Songtham's demand for transparency could endanger national security.

"Now many military leaders are seriously concerned that other countries could know Thailand's military strength in-depth just by reading newspapers," he said.

Defence Minister Gen Wichit Sukmak yesterday described the controversy over the army's spending plans as a tug-of-war.

Songtham wanted to see the army purchase plans follow the correct principles; the army wanted to have in equipment that was efficient and at the right price.

"The army has done no more than setting up a committee for selecting appropriate models for the purchase. No actual purchase has been made," the defence minister said.

Vietnam

Foreign Minister Discusses Premier's ROK Visit

BK1705115193 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 16 May 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Camh on the recent official visit by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet to the Republic of Korea, by station correspondent Dinh Khai in Hanoi on 16 May—recorded]

[Summary] [Dinh Khai] Comrade Minister, you have just returned from accompanying our prime minister on an official visit to the Republic of Korea. What is your impression on the visit?

[Nguyen Manh Cam] "This is the first visit to the ROK by our prime minister. Relations between the two countries have developed quickly following the establishment of diplomatic relations between Vietnam and the ROK. This visit has marked yet another historical event in Vietnam-ROK relations and has ushered in a new era for bilateral cooperation on a larger scale and with higher quality. During the high-level talks and in meetings between our ministers and deputy ministers with various ROK sectors and specialists, particularly our prime minister's meeting with more than 200 representatives of the ROK business groups, all unanimously agreed that it is necessary to quickly accelerate bilateral relations to suit the great potentials of both countries. Efforts must be made to accelerate multifaceted bilateral relations, especially in the economic and trade domains. Economically, the ROK has paid keen interest in infrastructural construction in Vietnam, developing heavy industry, exploiting natural resources, and improving the processing industry so as to enhance the quality of Vietnamese export products and to increase its export values. Vietnam and the ROK also discussed great potentials in exporting goods to Third World countries."

[Dinh Khai] Comrade Minister, could you please elaborate the concrete results of this visit?

[Nguyen Manh Cam] "Concerning concrete results, the ROK has expressed its readiness, together with Vietnam, to discuss and to speed up the use of \$50 million in development aid for the first phase, to quickly use the \$100 million in loans for export-import in the second phase, and to encourage Korean consortiums and corporations to expand trade relations with Vietnam. Most importantly, the ROK Government has pledged that it will take positive measures to urge Korean consortiums and corporations to invest more in Vietnam. In a meeting with representatives of various corporations, the representative all expressed their enthusiasm to expand investment in Vietnam, especially the four big ones namely Hyundai, Samsung, Lucky Goldstar, and Daewoo Groups. The expansion of investment and bilateral cooperation stemmed from the interests of both sides. While the ROK has vast experience and high technologies, Vietnam has ample natural resources and a great labor force. As a result, if we closely cooperate with

each other, we will develop and attain great achievements, thereby contributing to the general development program of the Asia-Pacific region—the region renowned for its great development potentials in the 21st century.”

[Dinh Khai] Comrade Minister, listening to your comment, I have the impression that the door of cooperation between Vietnam and the ROK has widely opened; what are the measures to be taken to speed up this cooperation in the immediate future?

[Nguyen Manh Cam] “Exactly, the door of cooperation between Vietnam and the ROK has been opened, and I should say that, through this visit, the door has opened more widely. Particularly, the ROK pledged that it will encourage more Korean investments in Vietnam, set up enterprises, and build industrial complexes in our country. They also expressed keen interest in helping Vietnam to improve the quality of export goods and to expand our markets not only in Korea but in other countries as well.

“On this occasion, I would like to say that Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet will visit Australia and New Zealand before the end of this month at the invitations of these two governments. This visit is aimed at implementing our policy toward this region. This policy is in conformity with the general trend at present, which advocates for regional cooperation, peace, and stability. I am firmly convinced that this visit will contribute to strengthening cooperation and mutual interests of countries in the region, thereby helping this region to develop more effectively at the end of this century and the beginning of the next one. I would like to stress here that in implementing our open door foreign policy, we have consistently scored significant achievements every passing day.”

[Dinh Khai] During the visit to the ROK, did Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and you have the chance to raise the issue of general elections in Cambodia?

[Nguyen Manh Cam] “Yes, we did. During the meeting between Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet with leaders of the ROK as well as between me and the Korean foreign minister, the Korean side expressed concern over situation in Cambodia. They welcomed our lines and policies in seriously implementing the Paris Peace Accord. They also expressed the hope that all parties concerned should do the same so as to strictly implement the accord to help Cambodia become a peaceful, independent, and neutral nation so that it may establish friendly relations with all countries. They have also expressed concern over the Khmer Rouge’s massacre of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia. They denounced the Khmer Rouge for their terrorist acts and expressed the belief that the world public opinion will do the same.”

[Dinh Khai] Thank you very much, Comrade Minister.

Trip Yields Economic Results

BK1705141393 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet returned to Hanoi yesterday afternoon, 16 May, successfully concluding his visit to the Republic of Korea.

While in the ROK, the prime minister met and exchanged views with President Kim Yong-sam. He also held talks with Prime Minister Hwang In-song on Vietnam-ROK relations as well as on international and regional issues of common concern.

At those meetings, the ROK leaders warmly welcomed Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, the first Vietnamese prime minister to pay an official visit to the ROK. They regarded the visit as a very important event and a historic landmark in ROK-Vietnam relations and maintained that the visit had opened a new stage in bilateral cooperation. They also expressed their admiration for the initial, yet important achievements that the Vietnamese people have scored in the renovation undertaking and open-door foreign policy.

The ROK leaders stressed that they attached great importance to promoting cooperation with Vietnam in many domains, first of all in those areas where the ROK has great potential and Vietnam has needs. They expressed the ROK’s readiness to invest in infrastructure building, heavy industry, and oil and gas exploitation; to help modernize Vietnam’s post and telecommunications a step further; and to provide Vietnam with economic development experience, capital, and technology. The Korean side maintained that each country still has great potential and that it is very important for the ROK and Vietnam to broaden economic, trade, and scientific cooperation on the principle of equality and mutual benefit because this will enable the two countries to supplement each other in national construction and development, in the interest of each country’s prosperity and for the sake of peace, friendship, stability, and development in the Asia-Pacific region.

Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet welcomed and highly appraised the fact that although the ROK has very limited natural resources, it has effected fast-breaking changes within a short period of time and has developed its economy by leaps and bounds, attributing factors of success to the Korean people’s spirit of self-sufficiency, diligence, and creativeness. The prime minister expressed his satisfaction at the rapid development and marked progress of Vietnam-ROK relations, especially since the establishment of diplomatic ties. Through this visit, the two sides unanimously agreed on the need to open a new chapter in their friendly and cooperative relations in conformity with the aspirations of the two peoples and the common trends in the region and the world.

The prime minister stressed: Let’s make joint efforts so that in the days ahead, the friendly and cooperative

relations between the two countries will develop to a higher level, reach a larger scale, and achieve better quality. The prime minister welcomed and supported the policy of reunifying the two Koreas through peaceful negotiations.

On the occasion of Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet's visit, Vietnam and the ROK signed an agreement on investment promotion and protection, an agreement on commerce, and an agreement on aviation cooperation. The two sides also agreed to go ahead with preparations for the early signing of an agreement on avoidance of double taxation, an agreement on maritime cooperation, and a number of other agreements which will lay solid bases and create necessary conditions for long-term cooperation.

At the conclusion of the prime minister's talks, representatives of the ministries accompanying the delegation met with leading officials of concerned Korean sectors to concretize the orientations set forth by the two countries' leaders. The Korean side expressed its readiness to immediately join Vietnam in using \$50 million reserved for the first phase of the development aid program to promptly clear the way for implementing the second phase; to study and to meet Vietnam's request for short-term specialist training with 40 scholarships per year during the 1993-94 period; help stabilize long-term university and postgraduate training; to work out measures to protect and encourage consortiums and corporations to invest in Vietnam in building materials: cement, steel, and glass; mineral exploitation: iron and copper; chemicals: nitrogenous fertilizer and insecticide; and textile and garment making; and to take appropriate steps to provide Vietnam with technology transfer so it can improve product quality, increase its export index to the ROK, and broaden its export activities to third countries.

While in the ROK, Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet met with more than 200 businesspeople representing various consortiums and industrial, building, commerce, and support service corporations. He also toured a number of modern production facilities owned by the biggest consortiums like Lucky Goldstar, Daewoo, Samsung, and Hundai. The boards of management of those consortiums and corporations accorded the prime minister and his entourage solemn receptions and warm feelings. They all expressed their readiness to cooperate with Vietnam. While touring these production facilities, the prime minister thoroughly studied factors of success, gathered management experiences, and discussed ways to improve technology, modernize equipment, and reach high automation and fast growth rate in the ROK's national economy.

The prime minister took into account the initial results of business joint ventures between ROK consortiums and corporations and Vietnam's economic sectors. He urged consortiums and corporations to expand even more quickly their cooperative relations with Vietnam under appropriate forms suitable with the great potential

of the two countries. Vietnamese businessmen accompanying the prime minister met with their Korean counterparts and signed a number of contracts on production cooperation or goods exchanges.

ROK Cooperation Reviewed

BK1705152993 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 12 May 93

[Unattributed article on relations with the Republic of Korea]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Concerning foreign policy, the ROK has consistently expanded and diversified relations with all countries, especially Southeast Asian nations including Vietnam.

Vietnam and the ROK established diplomatic relations on 22 December 1992. However, bilateral economic relations have been continuing for quite a long time. Various Korean investors contend that Vietnam is economically more attractive than other countries in the region. This has been manifested through the substantially increased ROK investment in Vietnam since 1992. Today, the ROK has engaged in 30 projects in Vietnam with a total capital of more than \$440 million. The bilateral trade value has reached \$500 million. At present, the ROK imports from Vietnam such items as agricultural products, timber, and mineral ores while exporting to Vietnam many industrial items such as chemical substances, textile, steel, machines, and electronic appliances.

Korean businessmen have expressed the hope that they will be able to expand investment in Vietnam in various areas. The ROK has provided a \$50 million aid package to Vietnam, granted a \$2 million interest-free loan for the period of four years and is considering another \$100 million loan with low interest. In the 1993-94 period, the ROK will help Vietnam exploit natural resources, build a 500-kilovolt power line, set up a factory producing telephone wires in Ho Chi Minh City and a cement factory in Haiphong. The ROK has also helped Vietnam in training young cadres for various economic establishments at colleges in Korea and in Vietnam.

The official friendship visit to the ROK by Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet is a new, significant event in Vietnam-ROK cooperation which is aimed at strengthening the interests of both sides and promoting peace, friendship, and development in the Asia-Pacific region.

PRC Military Delegation Meets With Counterpart

BK1605152293 Hanoi VNA in English 1511 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 26—A Vietnamese military delegation led by Defence Minister General Doan Khue held talks in Hanoi on May 14 with the visiting military delegation of the People's Republic of China led by Minister of Defence Senior Lieutenant-General Chi Haotian.

The two delegations expressed their desire to promote the friendship between the two peoples and Armies, to enhance and develop relations on the basis of the principles laid down by leaders of the two countries in the interest of the two nations and of peace, stability and development in the region.

General Doan Khue recalled that during the official friendship visit to Vietnam in late 1992 by Prime Minister Li Peng, the two sides had reiterated the agreement reached at the two countries' summit in 1991 whereby border and territorial disputes left by history or newly emerging since normalization of relations should be peacefully settled through negotiations. Pending settlement, the two sides pledged to refrain from any activities that might complicate the situation.

The talks took place in an atmosphere of friendship, mutual understanding and respect.

In the morning of May 15, the Chinese military delegation paid a floral tribute to President Ho Chi Minh at his mausoleum and visited the late president's home and office. The delegation called at the Army museum, the infantry school No. 1 and the Hanoi Spinning and Knitwear Complex.

This morning, the delegation left Hanoi to visit other local cities in Vietnam.

Le Mai Visits Romania, Meets Counterpart

BK1505143193 Hanoi VNA in English 1424 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 15—A delegation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs led by Vice Foreign Minister Le Mai paid a visit to Romania from May 11-12 as guest of the Romanian Foreign Ministry.

The delegation was received by Romanian Foreign Minister Teodor Malescanu. Vice Foreign Minister Le Mai held talks with his counterpart, Gheorghe Tinca.

The two sides informed each other of the latest developments in each country, and exchanged views on the relations between the two countries as well as on a number of international and regional issues of common concern. They were of the same view that the two countries need to have new approaches to promote their friendship and multi-sided cooperation in the new stage of development to conform to the interests of the two peoples, and for peace, cooperation and development in the world.

Foreign Ministry Delegation Visits Czech Republic

BK1405150193 Hanoi VNA in English 1419 GMT 14 May 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 14—A delegation of the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry headed by Deputy Minister Le Mai on May 10 paid an official visit to the Czech Republic.

The delegation was welcomed by Foreign Minister J. Zieleniec.

The delegation held talks with a delegation of the Czech Foreign Ministry led by First Deputy Minister A. Vondra. The two sides compared notes on bilateral relations and on international and regional issues of common concern. They agreed to continue strengthening the friendly and all-sides cooperation between Vietnam and Czech in the immediate and long-term interests of the two peoples, of peace, cooperation and development.

Deputy Minister Le Mai also had wide-ranging discussions with the chairmen of the Czech Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Economic Chamber.

Cuban Transportation Minister Visits

BK1505144993 Hanoi VNA in English 1432 GMT 15 May 93

[Text] Hanoi VNA May 15—A delegation of the Ministry of Transport of Cuba led by its Deputy Minister Joaquin Benavides Rodriguez visited Vietnam from May 10-15 as guest of the Ministry of transport and Communications.

During its stay, it held talks with a delegation of the host ministry, and had working sessions with senior officials of the Vietnam General Department of Marine Transport, the Pha Rung repairing shipyard, the Haiphong port, the Vietnam Ocean Shipping Agency and the Bach Dang shipyard.

Host and guest discussed how to promote cooperation in maritime transport, the repair of Cuban ships in Vietnam, and the possibilities of shipping joint venture between the two countries.

Cuban Ambassador to Vietnam Tania Maceira Delgado took part in the above-said activities of the Cuban delegation.

Hanoi Courts Hear 107 Corruption, Smuggling Cases

BK1705090593 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 16 May 93

[Text] Last April, the Hanoi People's Court and the courts of wards and districts of Hanoi continued to quickly bring to trial 107 cases of corruption, smuggling, and violations of public security charges. Seven of these cases were classified as serious ones. The total amount of funds recovered from the cases was 820 billion dong.

The offenders who were tried on corruption and smuggling charges received the most heavy penalties in pursuance of current laws. For instance, Do Dinh Thai of Gia Lam ward was charged with trafficking a small amount of narcotics and received a sentence of 14 years' imprisonment and a fine of 50 million dong.

Forest Reserves Depleted Despite Logging Ban

BK1805022793 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English
18 May 93 p 3

[By Suphapohn Kanwirayotin reporting from Binh Dinh and Gia Lai, Vietnam; from the weekly "Inside Indochina" insert]

[Text] Vietnam's remaining forest reserves continue to be felled for lucrative sales to Thailand and Japan, Asia's top wood consumers. In addition to selling off its own resources, Vietnam allows transit of logs and sawn timber from neighbouring Laos and Cambodia, mostly through the ports of Qui Nhon and Saigon. Officially, the Vietnamese Government has banned the export of logs since 1991. In 1992 it prohibited logging. But these laws exist only on paper.

In the central provinces of Binh Dinh and Gia Lai, logging and sawmilling remain crucial aspects of the local economy. The bans are meant for international consumption, and Hanoi has no means to ensure enforcement of its policy in forested areas where local authorities govern with relative autonomy.

Ethnic minorities also contribute to deforestation by migratory slash-and-burn cultivation, a practice which predominates in Vietnam's central highlands. Foreign traders estimate that since 1989, income from logs and more recently from sawn-timber exports has been crucial to Vietnam's ability to earn foreign exchange and balance state coffers. Logging income also allows local governments to survive.

The first wave of timber traders in Vietnam were from Thailand, Japan, and Singapore. Most of the pioneering Thais of 1987-1989 eventually left, with only a few remaining active in Qui Nhon, Vietnam's largest timber brokerage centre on the east coast. Most traders at present are from Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Singapore.

Most of the logs and sawn timber brought from Vietnam by these Chinese traders end up in Thailand, whose seemingly insatiable demand for raw materials feeds its manufacture of furniture, plywood, and parquet floors. Furniture exports from Thailand were valued at 12,500 million baht in 1992, and may reach 14,000 million baht this year, according to estimates.

Hanoi had hoped enforcing the logging and export bans would encourage foreign capital and technology for domestic industry. But foreign traders remain able to bypass the bans by buying raw materials and shipping them to Thailand and Singapore for processing.

"There is absolutely no forest in Qui Nhon," a foreign broker told Inside Indochina. "Most of the stuff we see and trade these days comes from the jungle deep in Gia Lai, Kontum, and Dac Lac."

Highway 19 linking Gia Lai and Binh Dinh provinces is Vietnam's best road, far superior to most of the country's pot-holed highways. Known as the "timber road", it is accessible to southern Laos and runs from Rattanakiri through Gia Lai to Qui Nhon.

Gia Lai and Kontum provinces were off limits to foreigners until recently, ostensibly because until early this year the area harboured ethnic minority insurgent groups. But veteran timber traders believe Vietnamese authorities also wanted to hide cross-border logging. Logs and sawn timber from southern Laos leave through the port of Saigon. A Lao source in Ho Chi Minh City said Laos has a 600-ton Japanese-made ship in service there whose main cargo is timber, and that a second, larger ship has been ordered from China.

Laos stepped up controls on logging in 1991, setting up restricted zones, where no felling of trees is allowed, and economic zones, where felling is allowed on condition that reforestation ensues.

The state-owned Binh Dinh Forest Products Export Company (BIFORIMEX) early this year ceased handling log transit in Cambodia and returned to Vietnam's central highlands to supply long-time customers. Its clients include a Thai consortium led by Thaibun Wattana, Meiwa of Japan (until March 1992 a dummy company for Mitsubishi Group), Hong Kong's Yeston, and Singapore-based Lumbermine.

Qui Nhon teems with sawmills ranging in size from household mills to the sprawling plants of BIFORIMEX. Half the city's population relies for a living on timber processing. The same is true in Pleiku, the capital of Gia Lai province at Highway 19's other end.

Gia Lai boasts Vietnam's largest timber reserve, with 80,000 hectares of forest cover. Effective this year, the province's People's Committee has banned the transport of fresh logs out of the province.

Provincial Agriculture and Forestry Chief Bui Ke Nghiep seemed more at ease discussing reforestation than logging. "We are promoting reforestation, trying to bring the forest cover up to 50-60 per cent of all natural areas by the year 2000," he said.

The area's ethnic minorities, who authorities are quick to note have shared in the devastation with slash-and-burn cultivation, depend like the Vietnamese on logging. "Most people in Gia Lai make their living working for sawmills" said the manager of one local mill, himself a member of the Jarai minority. His mill, Zasaco, uses Taiwanese machinery and is owned by a group of Ho Chi Minh City-based investors.

Like boom towns in Brazil's Amazon forest, Pleiku sports the trappings of sudden prosperity, including 500 hotel rooms and many new Toyotas. Pleiku's new rich have amassed property and capital worth one billion dong, according to an article in Lao Dong.

Though the provincial Forestry Inspection Department claims to have "disciplined" more than 100 cadres in the last four years, "the negative actions (associated with the logging trade) have not been reduced", according to Lao Dong.

One seasoned timber trader summed up the situation. "It's easier to get money from the timber trade than from exporting rice," he said.

Australia**Qantas Accuses U.S. of 'Bullying' in Escalating Air War***BK1805105693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0917 GMT 18 May 93*

[Text] Sydney, May 18 (AFP)—Australia's international flag carrier Qantas made a bitter attack on the United States Tuesday, accusing it of taking "totally unwarranted, destructive" and illegal actions against an innocent party.

The attack, delivered in a speech by Qantas chief executive John Ward, follows Washington's threat to slash Qantas services from Sydney to Los Angeles in a tit-for-tat response to action by Canberra against the U.S. carrier Northwest Airlines.

Northwest has been accused of failing to observe passenger quotas on its New York-Osaka-Sydney route and has been warned that one of its three flights will be cut while the issue goes to international arbitration.

In his first public comment on the issue, Ward also urged Canberra to consider using U.S. communications bases in this country as a bargaining chip.

Addressing the Queensland Tourist Industry Association in Brisbane, he said Washington was abusing its traditional alliance and friendship with Australia and had no intention of competing fairly in aviation and agriculture.

"Our government continues to refuse to countenance the thought of using communications bases as bargaining counters in negotiations," he said. "But it must be alert to the political sensitivities of its constituencies."

In a submission to the U.S. Department of Transportation, Qantas said the United States had shown a total disregard for the arbitration process and raised the possibility of further action by the Australian Government.

"It begs common sense to assert that eliminating three Qantas non-stop flights between Los Angeles and Sydney is in any manner comparable to the elimination of one of three non-stop flights per week by Northwest on the North Pacific route," the submission said.

Qantas says 70 percent of the passengers carried by Northwest between Osaka and Sydney were picked up in Osaka, in defiance of agreements to restrict local passengers to 50 percent.

Ward appealed for moderation in the dispute, asking Washington to show respect for "for the rights and aspirations of their friends in Australia."

There was little sign of friendship "in the way you're shoving us aside in our traditional export markets ... and in the way you're bullying (our) national airline," he said.

Northwest responded in its submission to the department that the arguments of Qantas and Australia that no

countermeasures are warranted were without merit, "and in many instances frivolous and intemperate."

The U.S. carrier said Canberra should take no action against it until the dispute had been resolved by the international arbitration panel, whose decision it said could be delivered within months.

"If it is willing to start a chain reaction of unilateral acts, Australia must be willing to accept the consequences of that course."

Troops Join Exercises in Thailand, Malaysia*BK1705075293 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 17 May 93*

[Text] Australian soldiers are taking part in separate exercises in Thailand and Malaysia. Soldiers of Australia's Special Air Services [SAS] Regiment are taking part in nearly four weeks of exercises in Lopburi in Thailand. The 25 SAS soldiers and their commander observer are involved in the annual exercises with Thailand's Special Forces.

In Malaysia, an Australia Rifle Company, normally stationed at Butterworth Air Base on Penang Island, is training with the Malaysian Army. The company level training is taking place in Sabah State and involves jungle reconnaissance, search, and attack.

Western Samoa**Civil Service Threatens Strike Unless Taxes Cut***BK1605064893 Hong Kong AFP in English 0452 GMT 16 May 93*

[Text] Apia, May 16 (AFP)—Western Samoa's powerful Public Service Association (PSA) warned this weekend it will consider strike action to force Apia to reduce income taxes ahead of the introduction next year of a goods and services tax (GST).

Finance Minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi has said the 10-percent GST, which comes into effect on January 1, would be accompanied by tax cuts. He is expected to detail the reductions when he announces the budget on May 31.

PSA Director Koroseta Too said the union's 6,000 members want a "significant reduction" and will consider striking if their demands are not met.

In the early 1980s, the PSA staged a six-week strike which crippled the government and ousted a prime minister.

"(GST) is going to widen the gap between the rich and the poor," Too said.

Opposition leader Tuiatua Tupua Tamasese Efi said the GST "is going to be the harshest tax measure" ever imposed on Western Samoa.

